Sunday, November 9, 2025 No 309 ₹8

DH on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

No US officials to attend G20 in South Africa: Trump

P10

Manifestos: Illusion of welfare, reality of debt

Electoral promises today trade long-term development for short-term applause and generational debt

DEEPANSHU MOHAN

There was a time when the political manifesto was a foundational document of democratic choice. It used to be a sober, political contract outlining a political party's socio-economic vision, which an informed electorate could discern through its philosophy of governance. That era seems long over now.

The **SUNDAY STORY**

The electoral manifesto, now, has devolved into a transactional catalogue of giveaways, a reckless auction where financial viability is the first casualty.

It is no longer a document of vision, but a mere ledger of populist-promises, hollowed out to the point of parody. This is not welfare, but an allusion of welfare-promises safeguarded by false rhetorical beliefs.

Voters wait to cast votes at a polling station during the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections in Patna. PTI

It reflects a profound crisis of political morality, a systemic hollowing of a social contract, where the elected State may no longer be a facilitator of capacity, but a distributor of largesse.

In the current context, this is acutely visible in Bihar. The ongoing Assembly election is a revealing laboratory for this new grammar.

The alliance of opposition parties or Mahagathbandhan promises a vast, permanent expansion of the State, offering one government job per family and Rs 30,000 in direct cash transfers to women.

The ruling National Democratic Alliance counters with a model of capital-led growth, promising one crore jobs through Rs 1 lakh crore in private investment, though it too litters its manifesto with populist cash handouts.

This battle of promises is being waged in a state with virtually no money.

Bihar's Own Tax Revenue is a mere 5.6% of its GSDP — one of the lowest in India. Before a single new promise is funded, nearly 42% of the state's budget is already mortgaged to 'committed expenditure' paying salaries, pensions and interest.

The Mahagathbandhan's manifesto is a promise to build a new storey on a house whose foundation is already crumbling.

This trend of competitive populism has crippled states that have walked this path. The promises in Bihar are not a beginning.

They are the tragic, illogical conclusion of a political model that has already been tested, the results of which are a catastrophic failure.

This is not just a debate about welfare. It is a story of deception, fiscal traps and generational theft.

▸ Political manifesto, Page 4

Pampers
JioMart
SMART BAZAAR
VOTED INDIA'S SOFTEST DIAPER*
UPTO 40% OFF
NEW & IMPROVED
Pampers premium care PANTS
360° COTTONY SOFTNESS*
VOTED INDIA'S SOFTEST*
Pampers complete skin comfort
ANTI-RASH BLANKET*
ALL NIGHT
DERMA TESTED
*For pampers premium care. Based on research conducted by Mavensensum in May'25 among 404 random diapering Moms with baby (0-2yrs) across India

Techie conned inside hotel room by duo posing as police

Victim was seeking a spa service online

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 47-year-old techie working with an MNC has lodged a complaint with the South-East CEN Police, alleging that a woman posing as a police officer extorted Rs 1.56 lakh from him inside a hotel room in Koramangala.

A senior police officer told *DH* that the victim, a resident of Seshadripuram, had checked into the hotel on November 3 for personal reasons. While staying there, he searched for spa services online and contacted a woman over the phone. The woman, who identified herself as Anshi Achari, agreed to visit his hotel room.

Upon arriving, Anshi, wearing a mask, asked him about the services he wanted. When he asked for a body massage, she soon made a call to her male associate, who introduced himself as a cybercrime sleuth. The man claimed that Anshi was also a police officer in plain clothes and that they were conducting a sting operation on him for soliciting illegal services.

Anshi then removed her mask, and the male accused threatened him that he would be booked under Section 386 of the IPC, which carries a punishment of up to six years' imprisonment. They then demanded Rs 5 lakh to "settle" the matter. Fearing arrest, the techie agreed to pay Rs 3 lakh and transferred Rs 1.56 lakh immediately, citing his daily transaction limit. The accused left, asking him to pay the remaining amount the next day, the police said.

Realising later that he had been targeted by conmen, he immediately approached the police and filed a complaint. "We have identified the woman's contact number, and it remains out of service now. We are further verifying CCTV footage to trace her movements, and efforts are on to nab the accused," a senior police officer said.

Speaking to *DH*, the victim said, "They spoke in Hindi and English while threatening me and demanding money. After I transferred the amount, the woman recorded a video of me stating that I had taken her service and paid the fee. She also threatened to upload the video on social media if I reported the incident to the police."

Rapido rider held for harassing woman passenger

BENGALURU, DHNS

Wilson Garden police on Friday arrested a Rapido bike taxi rider for allegedly trying to grab a woman passenger's legs during a ride. The victim had captured his behaviour on video and posted it on her social media account before filing a case.

The arrested has been identified as Lokesh, 28, a resident of Muniyappa Layout in Ullal.

The police said the complainant alleged that around 4 pm on Thursday, she was returning to her paying guest accommodation from Church Street when the rider tried to grab her legs while riding.

She was shocked as it happened so suddenly, but quickly recorded it on her mobile phone as proof. She said she couldn't ask the rider to stop midway as she is new to the city and had no idea where the biker was heading. She moved with caution.

Police said they are verifying the details of the rider through the Rapido platform and have arrested him. Wilson Garden police, who noticed the video, approached her to take a written complaint and later registered an FIR before arresting the accused.

The girl was seen crying when she got down from the bike, and passersby stopped Lokesh to ask what had happened. He started apologising for his behaviour. The passersby warned Lokesh not to repeat such behaviour in future.

A cleanliness drive was held in NTI Layout, Vidyaranyapura, on Saturday.

Residents join hands for NTI Layout clean-up drive

BENGALURU, DHNS: With a strong turnout from residents and a shared sense of civic responsibility, NTI Layout in Vidyaranyapura witnessed an intensive cleaning drive on Saturday. Organised by the Vidyaranyapura NTI Layout Residents' Welfare Association (VNTIRWA) and supported by the Bangalore North City Corporation, the initiative brought together locals committed to improving hygiene and public spaces in their neighbourhood.

The NTI Layout has been selected as one of the pilot-project areas to implement the newly formed Corporation's cleanliness drive.

The drive was led by VNTIRWA President N Shankar Rao, along with Executive Committee members and several residents.

Senior officials from the Bangalore North City Corporation, including Commissioner P Sunil Kumar, Joint Commissioner Mohammed Naeem Momin, and Additional Commissioner Amaresh, visited the area during the drive. They interacted with VNTIRWA office-bearers and residents who had actively participated in the effort.

Over the years, the VNTIRWA has taken a proactive approach to civic improvement — addressing issues such as street lighting and the stray dog menace. The association has also played a key role in greening the layout by initiating, organising, and sustaining community-led tree-planting campaigns.

Business owners asked to register under 'Purvanagara Palike Nade' campaign

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru East City Corporation has launched a special trade license campaign under the initiative 'Purvanagara Palike Nade – Towards Cooperation with Entrepreneurs'.

The corporation has urged business owners to take advantage of the campaign and apply for a trade license.

Additional Commissioner (Development), Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, opined that this was a public health and safety issue and hence directed officials to organise a workshop on trade licensing and regulation to ensure that all business activities within the East City Corporation limits operate in compliance with licensing requirements.

"All entrepreneurs and business owners are encouraged to participate, obtain the mandatory trade licenses, and operate their businesses in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations," the corporation said in a statement.

The campaign will go on for six days, from November 10 to 15.

To obtain a trade license during the campaign, applicants must submit documents such as an electricity bill, rental agreement, and GPS location of the business premises. Upon submission, the trade license certificate will be issued on the same day. For further information, business owners may contact the Health Supervisors or Senior Health Inspectors of their respective wards.

No new tenders till current works are done, Ramalinga Reddy tells officials

BENGALURU, DHNS: Transport Minister and BTM Layout MLA Ramalinga Reddy, who held a meeting with Bengaluru South City Corporation officials, asked the officials to cancel the tenders and call for a re-tender if contractors fail to finish work within the stipulated time.

Observing that many contractors were working at a slow pace and had failed to complete the works despite multiple extensions, Reddy opined that it was better to cancel such tenders and re-tender the work.

He also directed the officials to ensure that tenders for new works are called only after the ongoing works are completed.

Expressing his disappointment over the maintenance of footpaths, Reddy directed the officials to maintain them well. Reddy also asked the officials to focus on improving CCTV surveillance in the area and removing black spots.

He also suggested that the corporation engineers should ride a two-wheeler to understand the problems on the ground. Pointing to the poor state of skywalks in the area, he asked the officials to re-establish them under the PPP model. The officials have also been asked to prepare a proposal for the development of Madiwala Lake and submit it at the earliest.

City flocks to Malleswaram for Kadalekai Parishe

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS:

The ninth edition of the Kadalekai Parishe in Malleswaram kicked off on Saturday, bringing in a vibrant crowd from across the city. It was inaugurated by Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy.

Set up on the street by the Shri Kadu Malleshwara Swamy Temple in Malleswaram and organised by Kadu Malleswara Geleyara Balaga, the Parishe is on till November 10.

This year, the fair donned a plastic-free look, as over 1 lakh paper and cloth bags were distributed to the vendors to encourage them to adopt the eco-friendly option. The minister urged all city-based organisations to follow the same plastic-free model in upcoming fairs.

The fair saw about 400 stalls filled to the brim with not just groundnuts but various varieties of junk jewellery, toys, and snacks.

Shoppers browse fresh groundnuts at the Kadalekai Parishe in Malleswaram. DH PHOTO BY B K JANARDHAN

During the Parishe, vendors often ditch their 'regular' job to make a quick buck. Many farmers travel from border towns in neighbouring states. Saravana, who runs a scrap business, has taken out five days to take part in the Parishe. "I usually set up a stall in Basavanagudi, and it rakes in good business. This is the first time I am taking part in the one taking place in Malleswaram," he said.

While the festival officially kicked off on Saturday, most vendors set up shop on Thursday. "If you wanted to secure a spot, you had to come on Thursday. Sadly, Thursday and Friday didn't see much business, but we're hoping the crowd will pick up over the weekend," said Devi, a vendor hailing from Salem. The vendors hoped that one day soon, the Malleswaram Kadlekai Parishe too would become as popular as the one which annually takes place in Basavanagudi, roping in a bigger crowd.

Most vendors get their stock from Dharmapuri. All varieties of peanuts — raw, roasted, salted, boiled — can be found at the festival. The three-podlong groundnuts remain the most popular among customers.

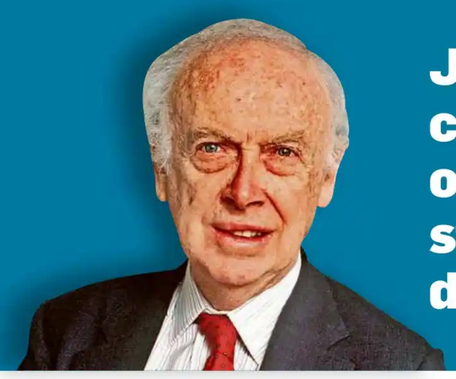
Gayatri, a Hyderabad resident, ended up at the fair by chance. "My family and I are in Bengaluru just for a weekend trip to visit family. After reaching here is when we got to know about the Parishe and were excited that we'd get to visit it. We've purchased multiple bags of groundnuts to take back home," she told *DH*.

Bengaluru Sunday, November 9, 2025 Pages 26 Vol 78 No 309 ₹8

DH on Sunday

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good



James Watson, co-discoverer of DNA structure, dies at 97 P10

Travel *Page16*

Gardens of delight

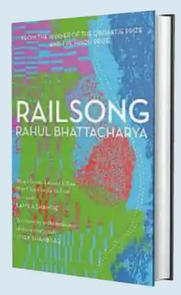
Explore the finest botanical parks across the world, and treat yourself to the floral diversity and stunning landscapes on offer

Art & Pursuits *Page18*

Capital of curiosities

Washington DC is full of stories waiting to be found, with most of its museums free to access

Books *Page15*



A nation on rails

Railsong takes us on a fascinating journey into the world of Indian Railways while also being a coming-of-age tale

Food & Drink *Page17*

Bihar on the menu

Turn your gaze from the ballot to the plate, and sample the state's famed litti chokha, kachoris and Maner laddus

Subterranean shock: Bengaluru's tunnel project defies due process

The state government goes ahead with the big-ticket mobility plan that was flagged by its own experts for technical and conceptual flaws

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Long before Bengaluru's proposed tunnel road became a political talking point, it had already drawn scrutiny on a more fundamental front — its very design.

An expert committee, constituted by the state government, had found that only "bare minimum" geological investigations were carried out for the 16.74 km underground corridor between Central Silk Board and Hebbal, warning that such shortcuts could spell trouble once excavations begin.

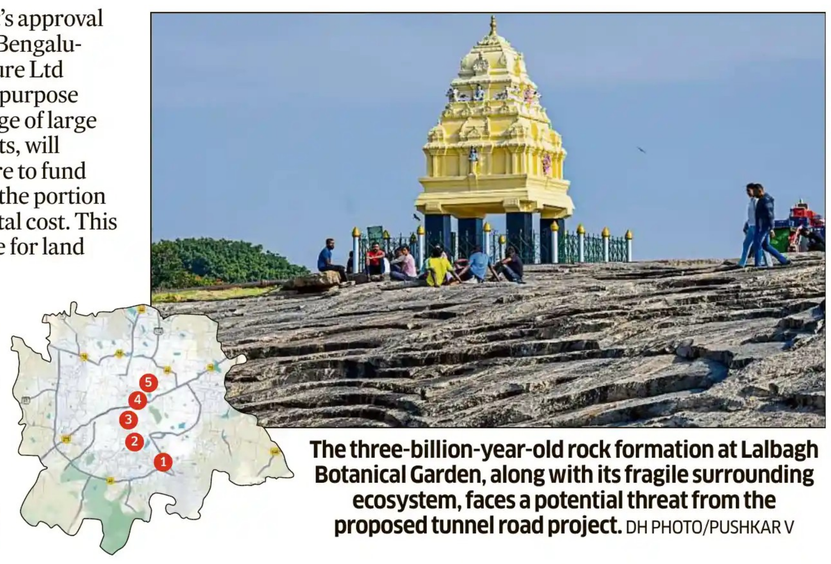
INSIGHT

While the tunnel road, a proposed signal-free link between two key junctions, is touted as a long-term fix for Bengaluru's traffic woes, it has drawn criticism over its feasibility, environmental impact and inadequate geological assessment.

As per the current plan, which received government's approval in June this year, the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE), a special purpose vehicle (SPV) in-charge of large infrastructure projects, will borrow Rs 9,303 crore to fund the project, covering the portion beyond 40% of the total cost. This includes Rs 800 crore for land acquisition.

The remaining 60% of the construction cost, estimated to be Rs 10,619 crore, will come from the private concessionaire, who will have the right to collect tolls for 30+10 years, besides getting free access to a total of six acres of land for commercial development.

Unlike National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), B-SMILE has no independent revenue stream or stake in the toll income during the concession period. The loan it plans to raise for the project is expected to be repaid through municipal sources of income such as advertisement tax revenues and premium FAR (floor area ratio) charges.



The three-billion-year-old rock formation at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, along with its fragile surrounding ecosystem, faces a potential threat from the proposed tunnel road project. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Warnings from within

When the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the tunnel project was prepared, there were allegations that it was riddled with errors and had copied data from other agencies. Consequently, in April this year, the committee of tunnelling experts was constituted to review the DPR, a key document that serves as the foundation for tendering and execution of the project.

After a month-long scrutiny, the expert committee red-flagged a total of 121 loopholes in the DPR. And the findings were alarming.

Tunnel Tangle, Page 2

Among the sharpest criticisms were the absence of detailed geotechnical studies, traffic survey analysis and the proposal to build a shaft near the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, an area marked as environmentally sensitive. The committee also observed that the DPR did not include as many as nine "important elements", including a land acquisition plan, tree enumeration and environmental impact assessments.

Shaken by the report that flagged serious technical lapses, the government directed the B-SMILE to revise the DPR, which itself was prepared at a cost of Rs 9.5 crore. Two weeks later, Rodic Consultants, the private agency which prepared the DPR, submitted a revised version, claiming to have addressed all the committee's observations. Subsequently, the government referred the report back to the expert committee for a second review. A day later, on May 27, the committee replied but was still not convinced.

Tunnelling in Bengaluru, it cautioned, is particularly challenging due to the city's complex geological conditions. "In the absence of extensive (soil) investigation, the cost of tunnelling in the estimate needs to be enhanced by about 10–15% to account for risks involved in handling unforeseen conditions during execution," the expert committee wrote.

What the committee exposed was not the first red-flag. ▸ Tunnel project, Page 2

Dr. Thumbay Moideen
Founder President
Thumbay Group, UAE

THUMBAY
GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION
SINCE 1997

THE BIGGEST MEDICAL UNIVERSITY IN THE GULF

جامعة الخليج الطبية
GULF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
WHERE THE WORLD COMES TO LEARN

ADMISSIONS OPEN 26-27

The largest network of Thumbay Academic Hospitals, Clinics, Labs & Pharmacies in the region

Thumbay University Hospital Al Jurf-Ajman
Thumbay Dental Hospital Al Jurf-Ajman
Thumbay Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Hospital, Al Jurf-Ajman
Thumbay Hospital Ajman
Thumbay Hospital Fujairah
Thumbay Hospital Daycare Muweila, Sharjah

Foundation Programs
- GMU Foundation Program (UK - ULan/USA)
- International Foundation Program (Upper Austria)

Medicine Programs
- Doctor of Medicine Program (MD) 6 years
- Graduate Entry Doctor of Medicine Program (MD) 4 years

Thumbay College of Veterinary Medicine
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Thumbay International Pathway Program (Duration: 3+3 Years)
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD) PROGRAM
(3 Years Study in Gulf Medical University, UAE + 3 Years Study in Collaborating Universities)
POLAND - ITALY - MALAYSIA - UK - UZBEKISTAN - AMERICAS - GHANA - ROMANIA

Diploma Programs
- Diploma of Dental Assistant
- Diploma in Pharmacy Technician

Postgraduate Diploma Programs
- Postgraduate Diploma in Adult Critical Care Nursing
- Postgraduate Diploma in Renal & Dialysis Nursing

Bachelor Programs
- Dentistry • Pharmacy • Nursing • Biomedical Sciences • Healthcare Management and Economics
- Anesthesia Technology • Medical Imaging Sciences • Medical Laboratory Sciences • Physiotherapy
- Optometry • Audiology and Speech Language Pathology • AI in Healthcare

Master Programs
- Public Health (Collaboration with Universityof Arizona, USA) • Health Professions Education
- Endodontics • Periodontics • Orthodontics • Clinical Pharmacy
- Drug Discovery and Development • PharmD - Doctor of Pharmacy
- Medical Laboratory Sciences • Medical Ultrasound • Physical Therapy
- Neonatal Critical Care Nursing • Renal and Dialysis Nursing • Adult Critical Care Nursing
- Healthcare Management and Economics • Artificial Intelligence and Health Informatics

Nationally and Internationally Accredited Programs

Doctoral Dual PhD Programs
- Precision Medicine (PhD PM) with Université Paris Saclay, France
- Dual PhD in Health Professions Education GMU & Erasmus University Netherlands

Scan here to Visit website

Ajman - UAE | +971 6 7431 333
www.gmu.ac.ae
E-mail: admissions@gmu.ac.ae

QAA
Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025

EDUCATION | HEALTHCARE | RESEARCH

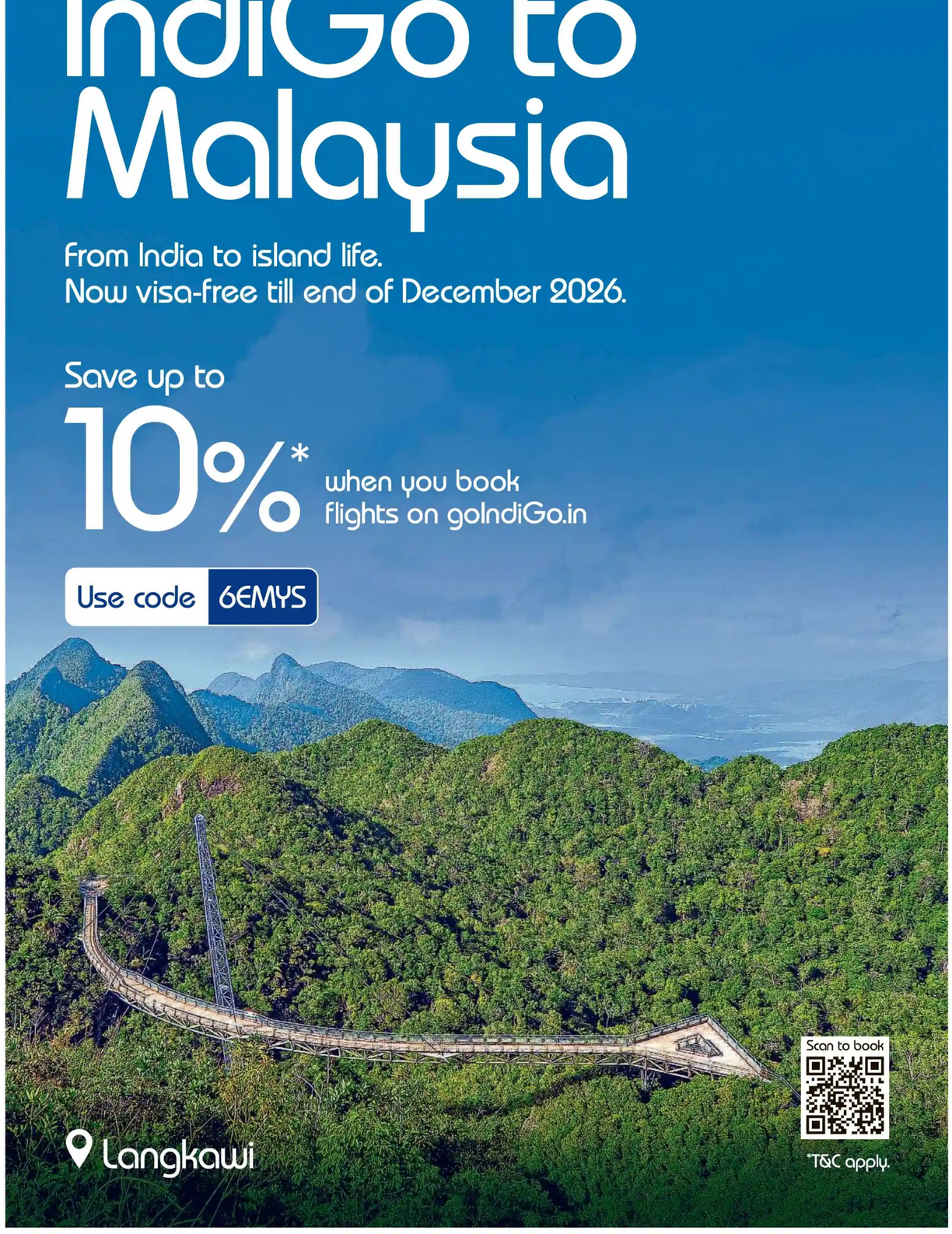
IndiGo | Visit Malaysia 2026 Truly Asia

IndiGo to Malaysia

From India to island life.
Now visa-free till end of December 2026.

Save up to 10%* when you book flights on goIndiGo.in

Use code 6EMYS

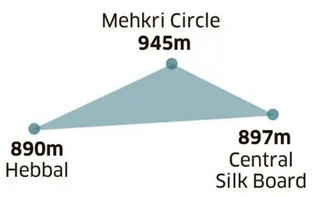


Langkawi

Scan to book

*T&C apply.

TUNNEL TANGLE



ELEVATION CHALLENGES

The underground section of the tunnel will experience height variations due to Bengaluru's unique geological conditions.

For example, Hebbal, a low-lying area, is situated at an elevation of approximately 890 metres above sea level, while Mehkri Circle, just 4 km away, is one of the higher points at 945 metres. Lalbagh is at 909 metres, and Central Silk Board at 897 metres.

TUNNEL DIAMETER

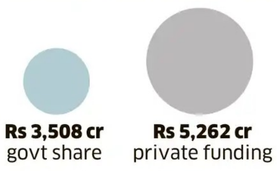
TUNNEL ROAD

16.74 km

A six-lane underground road, also called twin-tube tunnel, is proposed to connect Central Silk Board (near St John's Hospital) and Hebbal (Esteem Mall). The entire corridor will have a total of **14 entry and exit ramps.** Split into two packages, the construction of tunnel road is estimated to cost Rs 17,698 crore.

PACKAGE 1 (NORTH)

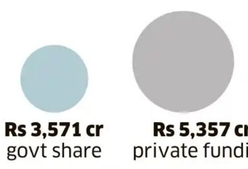
Hebbal near Esteem Mall junction to Sheshadri road at Freedom Park



Rs 3,508 cr govt share
Rs 5,262 cr private funding
Total cost: **Rs 8,770 cr**

PACKAGE 2 (SOUTH)

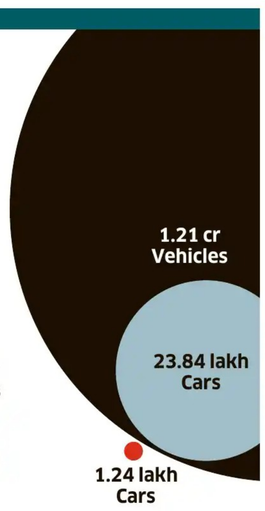
Sheshadri road to Silk Board



Rs 3,571 cr govt share
Rs 5,357 cr private funding
Total cost: **Rs 8,928 cr**

VEHICLES VS USAGE

There are a total of 1.21 crore vehicles registered in Bengaluru. Of this, 23.83 lakh are cars. The government has estimated that the North-South tunnel road will be used approximately by 1.24 lakh vehicles a day. That's just 5% of total cars and just 1% of the total vehicles.



The Great Bengaluru Tunnel Gamble

The Karnataka government will borrow a total of Rs 9,303.66 crore from HUDCO to fund the construction of the tunnel road, at an interest rate of 8.95%. While the loan will be repaid through taxes generated by Bengaluru's civic body, accessing the tunnel road itself will come at a steep cost. The concessionaire has been allowed to collect a toll of Rs19 per kilometre for 30 years, extendable by another 10 years. In addition, the private firm will receive advertising rights within the tunnel and commercial development rights at five locations, covering a total of about six acres.

Tunnel project from P1

When the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike prepared a feasibility study on decongesting Bengaluru's traffic in early 2024— which had first proposed a network of tunnel roads — the strongest objections came from the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), a government entity run by urban mobility planners.

The observations were scathing. The DULT exposed the lack of an Origin–Destination survey and turning movement counts (TMC), which are major components of a traffic study. More significantly, DULT pointed out that the report did not align with Bengaluru's comprehensive mobility plan (CMP) of 2020, which aims to increase the share of public transport to 70% by 2035 from the current 40%.

However, just a month later in December 2024, the agency softened its position. In its subsequent communication, DULT clarified that its remarks "should not be construed as the opinion of BMLTA (Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority)" and suggested the civic body to "consider the instructions of the Urban Development Department and the government."

In effect, the city's transport planning agency stepped aside.

Tenders in a hurry

Despite serious concerns from two expert bodies, the SPV went ahead with the tendering process in July this year, effectively moving forward on a project its own experts had questioned.

Interestingly, the tendering process itself appears to have flouted two key norms. First, the expert committee had recommended that 90% of the worksite area be encumbrance-free before awarding the contract to avoid delays and cost overruns. Second, the government's general rule requires that at least 80% of the land be in custody before tenders are floated, a principle strictly followed elsewhere.

So far, B-SMILE has not taken possession of the properties or begun utility-shifting, a lengthy prerequisite for excavation, even as the DPR notes that the tunnel project requires about 80 acres of land.

Notably, while the authorities are in a rush to finalise the contract for the tunnel road project, the bidders themselves have been more cautious. The tender submission deadline has already been extended four times, an unusual move prompted by repeated requests from prospective concessionaires.

Reason: During the pre-bid meeting, bidders sought access to crucial information such as traffic counts and soil data to study the project's geology and the estimated toll revenue. However, B-SMILE refused, asking bidders to make their own assessments.

A prospective bidder likened B-SMILE's approach to "asking a surgeon to operate without a scan." "You can't price what you can't see," he said.

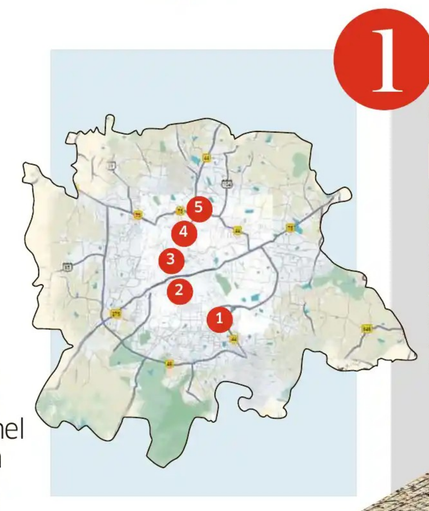
A tunnel to nowhere?

Given the limited number of entries to the tunnel, Rajkumar Dugar, co-founder of Citizens for Citizens (C4C), believes that whatever time the commuters saved inside the tunnel will be lost outside. "Accessing the nearest ramp could take up to four kilometres. Each ramp itself will average 1.1 km, there will be toll slowdowns, and inevitable bottlenecks at exit points. Net-net, the gain will be minimal, but the destruction and loss of resources will be irreparable," Dugar said.

He urged the government to instead prioritise the completion of the Phase III-A Metro project which is also proposed along the same alignment as tunnel road.

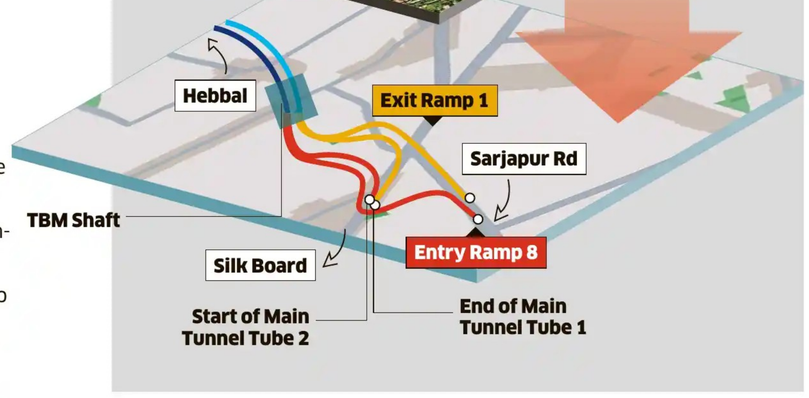
B S Prahallad, Technical Director of B-SMILE, dismissed criticism of the tunnel road, saying Bengaluru requires a road-based mobility solution to tackle congestion. "If the city can build an underground Metro beneath the High Court and Vidhana Soudha without causing disturbance on the surface, there is no reason why a tunnel road cannot be constructed. The idea of going underground is to avoid disruptions."

His confidence, however, stands in sharp contrast to the findings of two expert panels. Satya Arikutharam, an independent mobility consultant, said the tunnel project is inadvertently designed to maximise real estate value, allowing the concessionaire to minimise the total concession cost and improve their chances of winning. "Contractors are incentivised to earn revenue from ancillary developments, effectively turning a mobility project into a real estate deal. In doing so, the government's original goal of reducing congestion is largely ignored and it could paradoxically generate more traffic," he said.



1 CENTRAL SILK BOARD

Even though the government has claimed that the 16.74 km tunnel will connect Silk Board and Hebbal, a detailed study of the plan shows that the southern corridor ends at least 1.5 km before the Silk Board flyover. This means congestion at the junction is likely to worsen rather than ease. The plan also includes separate entry and exit ramps on both Hosur Road and Sarjapur Road. The exit ramps – especially on Hosur Road – are expected to experience long traffic jams, as the alignment merges with the already busy Madiwala market area. The government plans to acquire 10.33 acres of land from St John's Medical College for the project.

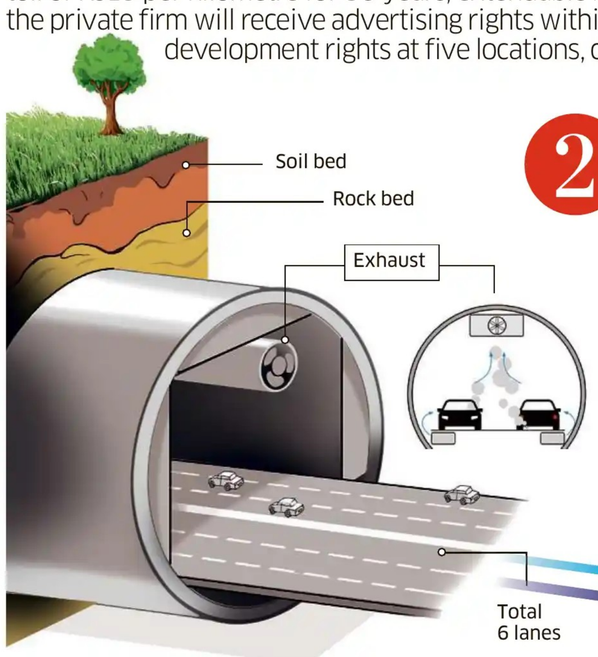


2 LALBAGH

About six acres of the historic Lalbagh Botanical Garden will be dug up to build a shaft where the government plans to launch the tunnel boring machine (TBM). In addition to this 'shaft', the plan indicates that a total of ten lanes will pass beneath Lalbagh – an area that is not only an ecologically sensitive zone but also regarded as one of Bengaluru's greatest heritage landmarks.

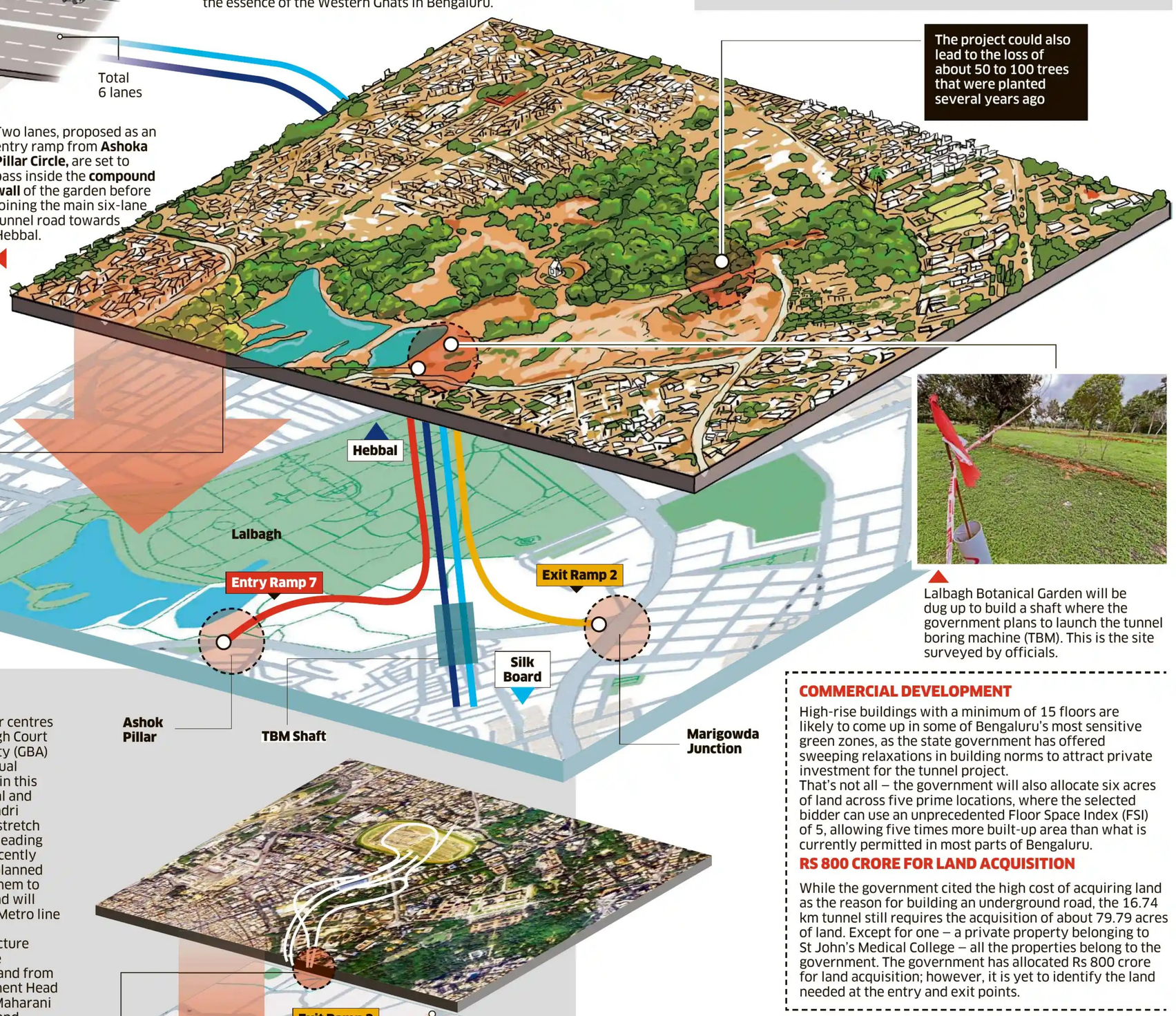
Two lanes, proposed as an entry ramp from Ashoka Pillar Circle, are set to pass inside the compound wall of the garden before joining the main six-lane tunnel road towards Hebbal. Another two-lane ramp, stretching 1.1 km, will pass directly beneath the three-billion-year-old rock formation inside Lalbagh before exiting just ahead of the already-congested Marigowda Junction traffic signal on Siddapura Road. An expert committee had urged the government to review the design, but the plan has not yet been modified.

The project could also lead to the loss of about 50 to 100 trees that were planted several years ago as part of an initiative to recreate the essence of the Western Ghats in Bengaluru.



Two lanes, proposed as an entry ramp from **Ashoka Pillar Circle,** are set to pass inside the **compound wall** of the garden before joining the main six-lane tunnel road towards Hebbal.

The project could also lead to the loss of about 50 to 100 trees that were planted several years ago

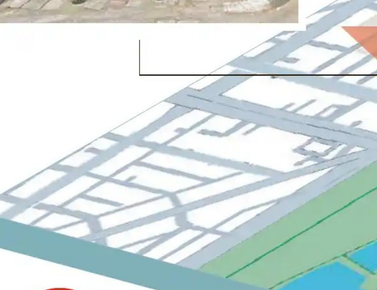


Lalbagh Botanical Garden will be dug up to build a shaft where the government plans to launch the tunnel boring machine (TBM). This is the site surveyed by officials.

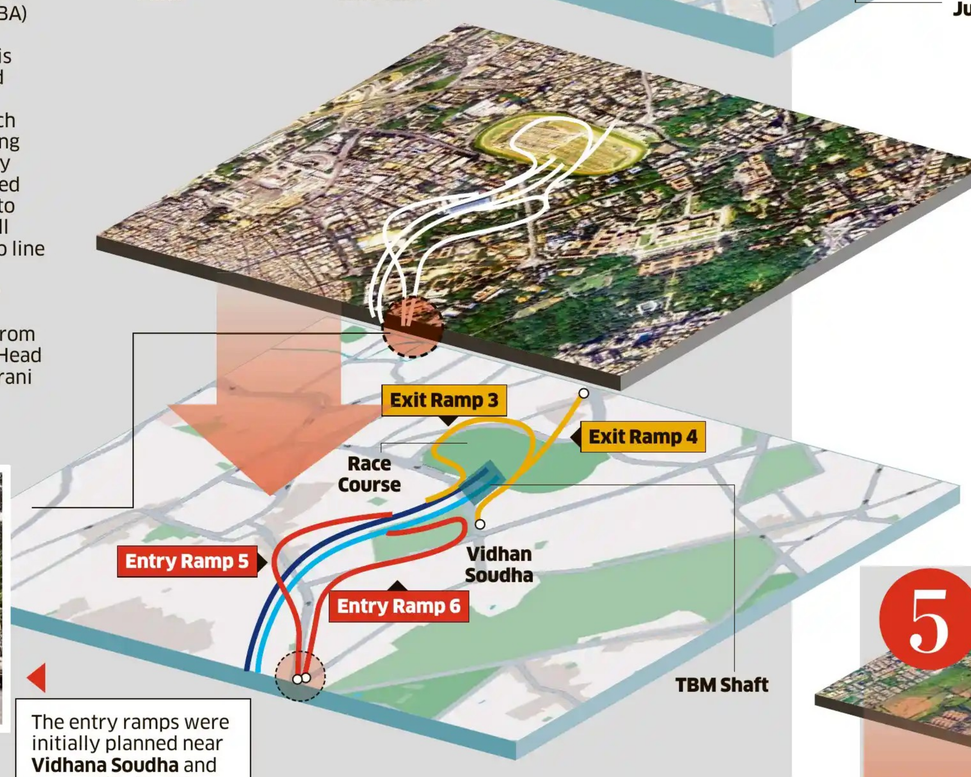
3 RACE COURSE

Given the proximity to key power centres such as Vidhana Soudha, the High Court and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) head office, some of the most unusual ramp designs have been proposed in this area. Two exit ramps – from Hebbal and Silk Board – are planned on Sheshadri Road towards Maharani College, a stretch already chock-a-block with traffic leading up to KR Circle. The government recently dropped the entry ramps initially planned near Vidhana Soudha and shifted them to KG Road. This means the tunnel road will intersect an existing underground Metro line – a potentially risky move.

Overall, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited(B-SMILE) has proposed the acquisition of about 10.9 acres of land from entities such as the Prison Department Head Office, High Grounds Fire Station, Maharani Cluster University, Freedom Park, and Bannappa Park, among others.



PHOTOS: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

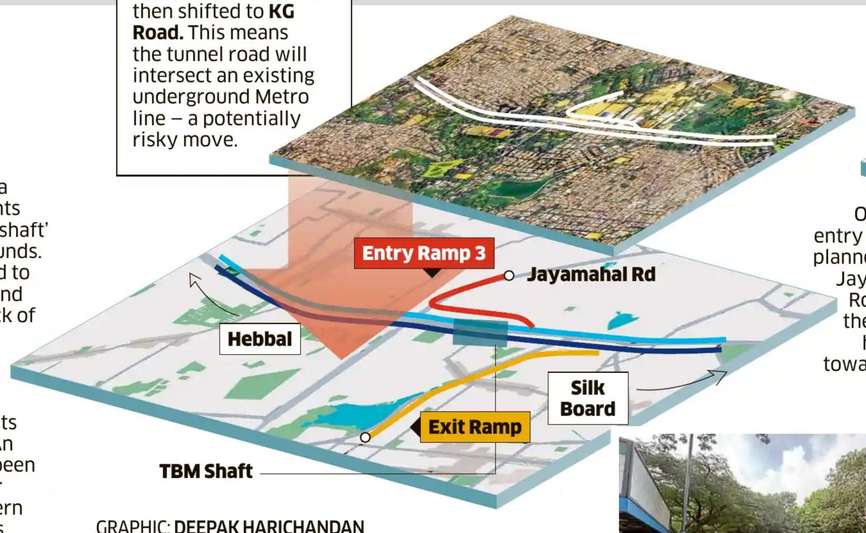


The entry ramps were initially planned near **Vidhana Soudha** and then shifted to **KG Road.** This means the tunnel road will intersect an existing underground Metro line – a potentially risky move.

4 MEHKRI CIRCLE

Initially, the DPR had proposed a total of four entry and exit points for the tunnel road, as well as a 'shaft' to launch the TBM at Palace Grounds. The design was recently changed to accommodate a shorter tunnel and a flyover, clearly indicating a lack of proper and long-term planning.

Now, only one entry ramp is planned from Jayamahal Road into the tunnel heading towards Silk Board, restricting the benefits only to a few neighbourhoods. An exit ramp, stretching 2 km, has been proposed along Sankey Road for vehicles coming from the southern side. This has raised concerns, as the new alignment passes close to the lake bund. Moreover, the design has been finalised without any soil investigation.



Only one entry ramp is planned from Jayamahal Road into the tunnel heading towards Silk Board

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

High-rise buildings with a minimum of 15 floors are likely to come up in some of Bengaluru's most sensitive green zones, as the state government has offered sweeping relaxations in building norms to attract private investment for the tunnel project.

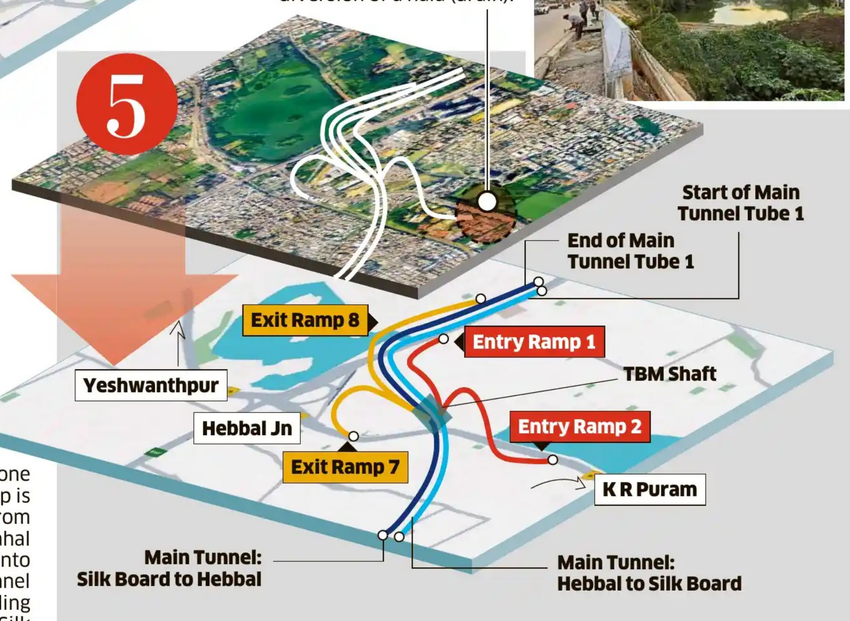
That's not all – the government will also allocate six acres of land across five prime locations, where the selected bidder can use an unprecedented Floor Space Index (FSI) of 5, allowing five times more built-up area than what is currently permitted in most parts of Bengaluru.

RS 800 CRORE FOR LAND ACQUISITION

While the government cited the high cost of acquiring land as the reason for building an underground road, the 16.74 km tunnel still requires the acquisition of about 79.79 acres of land. Except for one – a private property belonging to St John's Medical College – all the properties belong to the government. The government has allocated Rs 800 crore for land acquisition; however, it is yet to identify the land needed at the entry and exit points.

Another entry ramp is planned near the mouth of the lake's outlet, which will require the diversion of a nala (drain).

5 HEBBAL



Apart from the main tunnel tube, which begins at Hebbal, the junction will have a total of two entry ramps and one exit. The construction of the main tunnel is expected to cause significant traffic congestion unless the government acquires additional land, including defence property, to ensure the smooth flow of vehicles, as the existing roads are already heavily used.

Another entry ramp is planned near the mouth of the lake's outlet, which will require the diversion of a nala (drain). Vehicles will also be able to enter the tunnel from the Outer Ring Road (KR Puram side).

In total, B-SMILE requires about 22 acres of land. Given that this region is low-lying, there is a high risk of seepage or water entering the tunnel.

GRAPHIC: **DEEPAK HARICHANDAN**
MAP: **RAMU MASTAIAH & SAGAR M S**
COMPILED BY: **NAVEEN MENEZES**
SOURCE: **DPR, RAJKUMAR DUGAR**

Policy doesn't back new UTs, MHA tells Kuki groups

Insurgent body: Kuki-Zo hills never under Manipur admin before Independence

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A 'village volunteer' keeps a watch at a bunker in Manipur. PTI FILE PHOTO

CORE DEMAND

- Reiterating that the policy does not support creation of new UTs, MHA advisor for Northeast stresses the need to consult other communities
- KNO/UPF delegation urges Centre to reconsider its position saying the Constitution is above government policy
- The groups are firm that creation of a "separate administration" in the form of a UT with legislature is the only way forward for ending the conflict
- KNP and UPF claim that the Kuki Zo Hills were administered directly by the British Political Agent, not by the Meitei king

The Centre's current policy does not support creation of Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) told the Kuki armed groups in conflict-torn Manipur while virtually rejecting their demand.

This was conveyed during the two-day meeting between the MHA officials and representatives of Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF), the umbrella body of Kuki insurgent groups currently under the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with the government, on Thursday and Friday.

The meeting was held in New Delhi.

"During the meeting, A K Mishra (MHA advisor for Northeast) reiterated that whilst the Government of India is sensitive to the plight of the Kuki Zo people, the current policy does not support creation of new Union Territories. He also stressed the need for consultations with other communities in Manipur. The KNO/UPF delegation urged the Centre to reconsider its position in view of the fact that the Constitution is above government policy," said a joint statement issued by KNP and UPF, on Saturday.

The groups have been firm in their demand that creation of a "separate administration" in the form of a Union Territory with legislature is the only way forward for ending the conflict involving the Meiteis.

More than 260 people have died and over 60,000 others have been displaced due to the Meitei-Kuki conflict since May 2023. Manipur has remained under President's Rule since February due to the conflict.

This was the first meeting between the MHA and the KNO and UPF, in which the matters related to political demands of the Kuki-Zo communities were discussed, since the conflict erupted.

On September 4, the KNO and UPF held a meeting with the MHA, in which only the matters related to Suspension of Operations agreement and movement on the highways were discussed.

The MHA earlier held discussions with civil society organisations representing the communities, both in the Valley and the Kuki-dominated hills.

Defending their demand for a "separate administration," the KNP and UPF claimed during the meeting with MHA that the Kuki Zo Hills were never under the control of the Manipur State Durbar before Independence.

"It was also pointed out that under British rule, the Kuki Zo lands and other tribal areas were classified as 'Excluded Areas' under the Government of India Act, 1935. They were administered directly by the British Political Agent, not by the Meitei king. Kuki Zo governance rested with the traditional chiefs, who exercised complete control over land, justice, and local affairs."

Hindus are responsible for Bharat, says RSS chief

Outfit wants to hold its 'sadbhavana' meetings at block level

BENGALURU, DHNS

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at an event in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO

> Being Hindu means being responsible for Bharat. That's why Bharat is a Hindu Rashtra. It's not contradictory with anything we are doing today or any system.

> Muslims and Christians are also descendants of the same ancestors. They either don't know this or are made to forget it.

Bharat is a "Hindu Rashtra" where "Hindus are responsible" for the nation, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat said on Saturday, even as he underlined the need for harmony, which the national organisation wants to promote in its expansionist future.

Bhagwat was delivering a lecture here on the RSS, which is celebrating its centenary.

"Hindus are responsible for Bharat. What's our country? It's not the British who gave us nationhood. We are an ancient nationhood," Bhagwat said. "We have a core culture and whatever description used for it leads to the word Hindu," he said.

"Muslims and Christians are also descendants of the same ancestors. They either don't know this or are made to forget it," Bhagwat said.

"I find Christians and Muslims who have preserved their gotras. So, nobody is Ahindu. Being Hindu means being responsible for Bharat. That's why Bharat is a Hindu Rashtra. It's not contradictory with anything we are doing today or any system," Bhagwat argued.

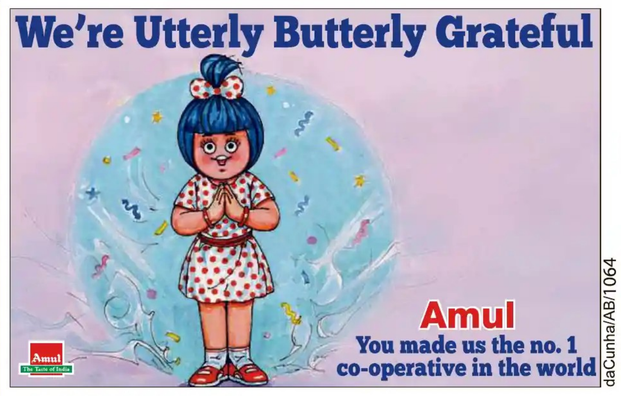
Bhagwat claimed more and more people now believed in the RSS, which he said is working to "organise the Hindu society" through "man-making".

"We are now in a state where there is some credibility. Everybody loves us and is ready to help us," Bhagwat said.

He stressed that the RSS has "not taken a single pie from outside" for its functioning, essentially countering Congress' Priyank Kharge who has accused the organisation of receiving foreign donations.

Going forward, Bhagwat said the RSS should reach "every diversity" and "all 142 crore" people. "We have plans to extend our work to all geographical units in our country - every layer and strata in society," he said.

▸ RSS, Page 4



Centre puts Sharavathy project on hold, warns of damage to Western Ghats

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Centre has deferred a proposal to divert around 54 hectares of forest land in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats for the 2,000-megawatt Sharavathy Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project in Karnataka after members flagged serious ecological concerns and violations of forest laws.

According to the minutes of the 11th meeting of the Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee held on October 27, the proposed project area lies within the Sharavathy Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, which is located in the central regions of the Western Ghats.

The committee said the project involves the felling of more than 15,000 trees, many of which are endemic to the Western Ghats, one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots. It said the forest tracts fall under "eco-class 1 and eco-class 3" with canopy densities of 0.5 and 0.2.

The area has "climax forests of tropical wet evergreen, semi-evergreen and shola grasslands", which are "highly vulnerable and complex ecosystems", which, "if destroyed, cannot be restored to their original state".

The minutes said the project site supports Lion-Tailed Macaque, tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild dogs, King Cobra, Malabar Giant Squirrel and other rare and endemic species.

Project peril

- Project involves the felling of more than 15,000 trees, many of which are endemic to the Western Ghats
- Tropical wet evergreen, semi-evergreen and shola grasslands forests are highly vulnerable
- Project site supports Lion-Tailed Macaque, tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild dogs, King Cobra, Malabar Giant Squirrel and other rare and endemic species

It referred to a wildlife census that recorded 730 Lion-Tailed Macaques in the Sharavathy Valley Sanctuary and warned that "loss of canopy and habitat would intensify this fragmentation, posing a serious risk to the survival of LTMs".

The panel recorded that the compensatory afforestation site offered by the project proponent will not be able to compensate for the loss of habitat of the Lion-Tailed Macaque and that "wet evergreen forests are complex ecosystems and are quite difficult to replicate".

▸ Sharavathy, Page 4
Related report on Page 4

Fresh video of VIP treatment for jail inmates

BENGALURU, DHNS: Video footage purportedly of notorious inmates, including a terror suspect enjoying the luxury of having an LED TV inside the barracks of Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, went viral on Saturday.

The latest video raised serious questions about security within the facility. However, officials from the Prison Department refused to reveal anything about the authenticity of the video and didn't confirm about the facility given to the inmates.

Details on Page 5

Non-bailable warrant against Satish Sail

BENGALURU, DHNS: A special court for cases involving MP/MLAs has issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Karwar MLA Satish Sail for not cooperating with the court in a case pertaining to illegal export of iron ore.

Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat also ordered notice to the person who stood surety to the Congress MLA.

Details on Page 5

Saikia: Working to bring back Asia Cup trophy

NEW DELHI, PTI: The cricket boards of India and Pakistan have managed to "break the ice" on the Asia Cup trophy dispute and will work towards finding a plausible solution in the coming days, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI after meeting PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of an ICC gathering in Dubai.

The Asia Cup Trophy wasn't presented to India by Naqvi, after the winning team refused to accept it from him.

Details on Page 12

Four new Vande Bharat trains flagged off

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off four new Vande Bharat trains from Varanasi, his Lok Sabha constituency, terming them a "major step" towards "transforming" the railways. The new Vande Bharat trains connect: Banaras to Khajuraho, Lucknow to Saharanpur, Firozpur to Delhi and Ernakulam to Bengaluru. Modi said that more than 160 Vande Bharat trains were currently operating in the country.

Narendra Modi

Page 8

Iskcon case: SC gives split verdict on review petition

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has delivered a split verdict in review petitions filed against the May 16 judgment, which then ruled in favour of Bengaluru chapter of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Iskcon) for the management of the centre over there, rejecting the claims of the Mumbai unit.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Augustine George Masih differed in their decisions on the petition filed by the Mumbai unit.

Justice Maheshwari allowed the plea for open court hearing and issued notice to the parties.

Justice Masih, however, dismissed the review petitions.

"After having carefully gone through the review petitions, the judgment under review and the material annexed therewith, I am satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of record or any merit in the review petitions, warranting reconsideration of the judgment," he wrote in his separate order on October 28.

The May 16 judgment was delivered by a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka (since retired) and Masih.

Review petition is decided in judges chamber by the circulation of papers only.

In view of divergent views, the bench directed for placing the review petitions before the Chief Justice of India for further directions.

In its judgment, the court then held that the Iskcon temple in Bengaluru belonged to Iskcon Society Bengaluru registered under Karnataka Societies Act.

The court pointed out that none of the documents or letters concerning the allotment of land indicate that Madhu Pandit acted as the president of the Bengaluru branch of Iskcon Mumbai.

CRACKING DOWN

Parking violations: 10 tow vehicles to prowl on 12 key corridors

DH EXCLUSIVE

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

In a bid to ease traffic on Bengaluru's congested roads and to introduce proposed towing of wrongly parked vehicles, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) requesting an immediate supply of 10 new towing vehicles.

The letter seeks one vehicle each for a traffic division and sub-divisions immediately as part of the overall 10-vehicle requirement to commence the operation without delay.

This marks a shift towards strict enforcement, targeting unauthorised parking that hinders smooth flow of vehicles at 154 high-density congestion points.

Joint commissioner of police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy confirmed the proactive measure in a formal letter. The letter, seen by *DH*, highlights that while the department has prioritised improvement measures, non-compliance with parking rules, including parking on footpaths at intersections, and double parking are now the primary disruptors of traffic flow.

▸ Parking, Page 4

KLE ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA, INDIA
(Deemed-to-be-University)
Accredited at A+ Grade by NAAC (3rd Cycle)) Placed in Category 'A' by MHRD (GoI)

APPOINTMENT FOR THE POST OF
VICE-CHANCELLOR & REGISTRAR

Applications & Nominations are invited from persons of repute with excellence in academic, research & administration. Persons of highest integrity & commitment with commensurate experience will be placed before the search cum selection committee.

The Search Committee reserves the right to consider any person of eminence outside the list of such application nominations also.

The details of eligibility criteria prescribed for post of **Vice-Chancellor & Registrar** format of the application are available on the website of the University **www.kaher.edu.in.** The Online application should be sent along with detailed biodata, academic, research & administrative achievements through e-mail **kaherhr@kledeemeduniversity.edu.in** to the Nodal officer in both soft as well as hard copies so as to reach on or before **25th November 2025.**

For further details log on to our website/Scan QR
www.kaher.edu.in
0831-2444444

Sd/- Registrar

HAPPIEST HEALTH
The Wellness Enterprise

Happiest Health Welcomes
Dr. Achuth Baliga & Team
BDS, FDSRCS (England), FFDRCS (Ireland)
Decades of distinguished experience in dentistry

Celebrate a new chapter in oral health with **Dr. Achuth Baliga** and **Team** as **Happiest Health** launches **Happiest Pearls,** a comprehensive dental clinic in **Indiranagar** on **3rd November 2025**

FAMILY DENTAL CARE THROUGH MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

8 Hi-Tech Dental Chairs

Zoom Bleaching

Mectron Piezosurgery

Carestream CBCT 9600

iTero Lumina Intraoral Scanner

Ultra-Modern Sterilization System

Dental Lasers

DENTAL CARE SERVICES
General & Preventive Dentistry • Orthodontics • Endodontics • Periodontics
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery • Prosthodontics • Pediatric Dentistry
Dental Implants • Full Mouth Rehabilitation • Sample Collection • Recovery Room

HAPPIEST PEARLS
a unit of HAPPIEST HEALTH
Keywest Building (Ground Floor), 1st Main Road, Doopanahalli, Indiranagar, Bengaluru – 560038
874 8888 874
clinics.happiesthealth.com/specialties/Dentistry

PRIDE IN PERIL 14 yrs after first line opened, project yet to reach full potential

What ails Namma Metro, city's long-promised lifeline?

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

When the first metro train chugged into the MG Road station on October 20, 2011, Bengalureans rejoiced with childlike excitement.

It was the city's first metro corridor — a 6.7-km section of the Purple Line from MG Road to Baiyappanahalli — and citizens were convinced that a reliable and affordable solution to Bengaluru's notorious traffic woes had finally arrived.

They believed that the city would expand the metro fast enough — within 10-15 years — to cover all major areas. The excitement was pure, the hope infectious.

But 14 years on, the excitement has ebbed, the hope dimmed. As construction slows and expansion drags, citizens wonder what's really ailing Namma Metro? Why has the proposed panacea failed to ease traffic woes?

The first Delhi Metro line opened on December 24, 2002. By the 14th anniversary, the city had built more than 200 km of the network, including the airport line.

In contrast, Bengaluru's metro network has not crossed 100 km even after 14 years.

And instead of expanding the network within the city, Bengaluru Metro is going to the outskirts.

With an acute shortage of trains, Bengaluru Metro's busiest stations resemble Mumbai's crowded local train stations. Train frequency is below par, operations start late on Sundays and fares are high.

The deeper malaise lies within the institution itself. Namma Metro gets a new managing director every two years, doesn't have its own head office and is struggling to attract and retain technically qualified people.

"In the initial years, what we needed was a strong foundation to guide future progress, but that was never laid. It began as an ad hoc system with retired people at the helm of affairs, and it still is," says a person in the know.

Hiring woes

Experienced engineers from the railways and other professionals from other metros hesitate to come here because the pay is substantially lower, there is no regular employment, contracts are shorter (1-3 years against five years). Hence, BMRCL is heavily dependent on retired employees, some working even beyond 70 years.

Such service conditions undermine continuity for a project that typically takes at least five years.

In 2023-24, the BMRCL had 2,313 employees, nearly half of them hired on contract.

"We're also facing a shortage of train operators," a second person says.

Rented head office

Despite having sufficient land, BMRCL still functions out of a rented office atop the BMTC bus station in Shanthinagar, paying Rs 8 crore - Rs 9 crore annually.

"Chennai Metro has built a swanky, nine-storey building of its own, complete with an adjacent township. Even smaller metro railway companies like Lucknow, Kochi, Nagpur, etc, have their own head offices," the person adds.

Network expansion

The second person explains how political pressure is dictating new lines. "Delhi Metro relies on its Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) for expansion and seeks the government's permission to make Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). But in Bengaluru, it's the political leaders who decide where the metro should expand."

And instead of preparing the DPR for 100-200 km, Bengaluru metro has traditionally proposed only 30-40 km, leading to piecemeal approvals.

According to the person, the thumb rule is to first expand within the city centre, build a circular line and increase interchange stations.

"That's how you get ridership. Look at what happened with the RV Road interchange station. Our ridership increased by 2.5 lakh. Delhi Metro did the same, with dozens of interchange stations. Its daily ridership is 70 lakh".

The CMP prepared by the Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT) suggested two new lines within the city. An inner ring metro with 22 stations and another line connecting Vellara Junction and Whitefield via Old Airport Road. "We aren't studying the feasibility of either line," a third person confirmed.

Key positions vacant

The BMRCL has been without two key directors. The Director (Operations and Maintenance) superannuated in February, while the Director (Project and Planning) retired in May.

In June, BMRCL invited applications to fill both positions. But even after five months, no interviews have been conducted, the people say. "Both appointments have to be cleared by the ministry," one of them said.

The cost of slow construction

Slow construction not only leads to cost overruns, but also holds up revenue generation. A year's delay escalates the cost by a minimum of 5%.

The cost of Phase 2 (75.06 km) has increased from Rs 30,695 crore to Rs 40,614.27 crore and its new deadline is December 2026, a six-year delay from the original target.

Phase 2A/2B will also likely see cost escalation. Its deadline has been revised, from June 2026 to December 2027. Phase 3, okayed by the Centre in June 2025, has yet to see groundwork. Even before tenders are called, its deadline has been revised by a year to 2031.

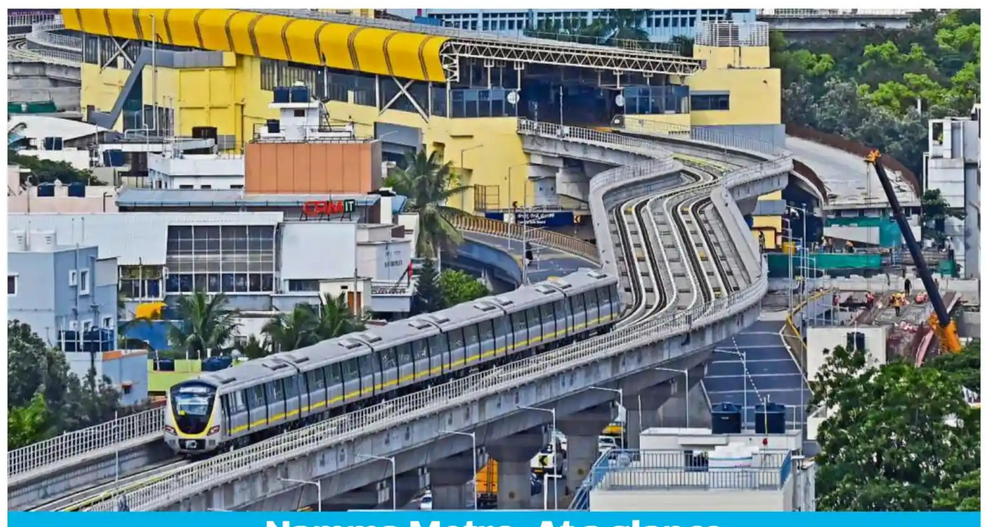
Financial pressures

Operational inefficiencies have compounded financial pressures.

With the state not keen to continue shadow cash support, BMRCL increased the fares in February 2025, by an average of 51.55% before discounts and 46.39% after discounts. It also plans to increase the fares by up to 5% every year, starting February 2026.

The Karnataka High Court's November 3, 2025, judgement that the Centre has "pervasive control" over Namma Metro and the state "plays second fiddle" may further complicate matters.

Fourteen years after that jubilant first ride, Bengaluru's metro dream stands at a crossroads. Whether it can regain public trust will depend as much on new lines as on fixing the system that runs them.



Namma Metro: At a glance

First line opened: **Oct 20, 2011**

Operational network: **96.1 km**

Approved	Under approval	Under construction
44.65 km (Ph 3)	36.59 km (Ph 3A)	79.45 km

Pink Line
Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere (7.5km): **92%, May '26**
Tavarekere-Nagawara (13.76km): **90%, Dec '26**

Blue Line
Silk Board-KR Pura (19.75km): **74%, Sept '26**
Hebbal-KIA (27.44km): **57%, June '27**
KR Pura-Hebbal (11km): **40%, Dec '27**

Phase 4: 210.9 km

Five extensions:
- Madavara-Tumakuru (56.9km)
- Challaghatta-Bidadi (15 km)
- Silk Institute-Harohalli (24 km)
- Bommasandra-Attibele (11 km)
- Kadabagere-Taverekere village (6 km)

Three new lines:
- KR Puram-Hoskote (16.3 km)
- Doddajala-Devanahalli (10 km)
- Kalena Agrahara-Kadugodi Tree Park (68 km).

In cold storage • Inner ring metro (34 km) • Vellara Junction-Whitefield via Old Airport Road (16 km)

BMRCL finances (2023-24)

Gross revenue	Net loss after tax	Outstanding loan liability	Subordinate debt
Rs 990.02 cr	Rs 641.86 cr	Rs 13,106.65 cr	Rs 21.521.23 cr

Industry leaders reflect on resilience and loss at Manotsava fest

National Mental Health festival comes to a close

BENGALURU, DHNS

Day one of Manotsava, National Mental Health Festival concluded with a keynote conversation featuring Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder of Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics Limited; Nithin Kamath, CEO of Zerodha; and philanthropist Rohini Nilekani, the moderator.

The panel titled Mental Wealth: Balancing people, profit and purpose was a light-hearted conversation about the highs and lows, struggles, professional and personal success, and managing mental health all the way.

Speaking about Bengaluru, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said, "Bengaluru gives a sense of belonging, and that develops a sense of purpose. Bengaluru has been a city where I feel a strong sense of belonging and I love the city, and that is why when things go wrong here, it really bothers me."

Nithin Kamath spoke about the support of his family and his slow years while building Zerodha. "I dropped out from first-year engineering and took up jobs such as working at a call centre, and then I became a trader. I was trading other people's money and was able to identify the gaps that traders faced in the country."

Speaking about his app, Nithin Kamath said that he thinks from a customer's point of view. "We do not send push notifications on the phone, as I do not find it appealing, and we do not call people, as I, as a customer, would not like a company calling me without prior appointments," he further said.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Nithin Kamath also discussed losing a loved one and coping with the loss, as both of them had lost a close family member.

Nithin Kamath also spoke about the stroke he had in early 2024 and stressed the lack of sleep and exhaustion that finally led to the attack. "I dismissed the initial symptoms and decided to sleep it off, due to which I missed my golden hour. It is always better to visit the doctor at the first symptom," said Kamath.

The panellists stressed learning new things and indulging in activities to keep issues of mental health at bay.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder of Biocon Limited and Biocon Biologics Limited, in conversation with Nithin Kamath, CEO of Zerodha, during a session at Manotsava: National Mental Health Festival. The session was moderated by philanthropist Rohini Nilekani. CREDIT: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gang impersonates delivery staff and police, robs home

Bengaluru, dhns: A gang of seven men barged into a house in Marathahalli and robbed gold, gadgets, and other valuables after threatening three women on Thursday night.

A senior police officer said that the incident took place around 2 a.m., when the three women were asleep in their rented house. Suddenly, three unidentified men arrived at their door and began knocking repeatedly, shouting that they were food delivery boys.

"The women were scared and initially did not open the door. However, as the knocking continued, they opened it, assuming it might be a genuine delivery. As soon as the door was opened, they barged in, began ransacking the house, and snatched two mobile phones from the women. When the victims tried to raise an alarm, the gang threatened them not to scream," the officer said.

Within minutes, four more men entered the house and joined the first group. They introduced themselves as policemen and claimed they were conducting a raid based on a tip-off that illegal activities were taking place inside the house. "The accused demanded that the women hand over their gold ornaments and Rs 5 lakh cash. The terrified victims complied, and the gang robbed valuables before fleeing the spot," the officer added.

The victims hail from West Bengal, had rented the house, and are said to be working professionals. HAL police are now verifying CCTV footage and tracking the suspects through technical analysis.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka marks out a pothole with spray paint during the BJP's reality check on twin issues of potholes and garbage, at Vijayanagar in the city on Saturday. Former ministers Suresh Kumar and Munirathna are seen.

BJP leaders launch campaign against pothole & garbage issues in city

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's campaign against pothole and garbage issues in the city, party leaders and the workers conducted a 'reality check' in Vijayanagar on Saturday.

Leader of the Opposition in Assembly R Ashoka, Bangalore Central MP P C Mohan, Bangalore Rural MP Dr C N Manjunath, former DCM Ashwath Narayan, and former ministers S Suresh Kumar and Munirathna among others took part in the initiative.

Ashoka termed the state government as a 'pothole-ridden government'. "The cabinet, too, is filled with potholes. They constantly speak of their 'guarantees', but they haven't improved Bengaluru in any shape or form. They claim to have spent Rs 1,800 crore on filling potholes, but no improvement can be seen on city roads. The potholes they fix are again in a worse condition. What have they done with the taxpayers' money," he questioned.

The opposition leaders marked out the potholes and held out placards on the streets. They also visited garbage blackspots in the vicinity. The placards read 'Gundi Veer' and 'Tepe Sarkara' and featured edited photographs of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar.

"The garbage situation is getting worse in the city with each passing day. No matter which area you go to, the garbage isn't getting cleared. Every corner of the city is stinking. The government has not done anything about this. In addition to this, the government had made tall claims that all the potholes in the city would be filled by October end, but city roads remain as bad as before. We have launched this campaign because things can't go in like this anymore," said MP Mohan.

The situation in Bengaluru will get better only when the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar "aren't distracted by their extra-curricular activities," said S Suresh Kumar.

Screen time, stigma, and maternal care take centrestage

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR & ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

From discussing maternal mental health to the connection between gut and brain, the first day of 'Manotsava: National Mental Health Festival 2025' kicked off with discussions on various aspects of mental health.

The second edition of the Manotsava event is co-hosted by Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation (RNPF), the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).

Philanthropist Rohini Nilekani said, "The Festival is about breaking silences, being able to communicate, acceptance, and being able to celebrate it."

The discussion on maternal health revolved around the difficulties of new mothers, societal expectations, and the role of families.

Panelist Dr Prabha Chandra, Professor and Head of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, spoke about the changes and fine-tuning of the mother's brain during pregnancy and the postnatal period. "Just like during adolescence, 'matrescence' takes place during the postpartum period, where the mother can only think about the protection and importance of the child, leading to her missing out on a lot of other aspects."

She said that the Prime Minister's Office has requested plans for virtual interventions to support rural pregnant women during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

Philanthropist Rohini Nilekani, Nimhans Director Pratima Murthy, and NCBS Director Dr L S Shashidhara with children from Srishti Special Academy. CREDIT: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Poornima Mahindru, a clinical psychologist, said that judgemental treatment towards women begins from conception—the kind of birth she had, and whether she chose or was able to breastfeed the child. "Sometimes, no matter how much one tries, a woman will not be able to deliver or breastfeed the baby, but it is just because of medical conditions and does not have to do with whether one is a good mother or not. Such judgments add a lot of pressure on postpartum mothers," said Dr Poornima.

Professor Richie Davidson from the University of Wisconsin–Madison delivered the keynote address on the impact of screen time and lack of socialisation on humanity.

In the Indian context, a cross-sectional study on the Mental Health Effects of Excessive Screen Time and Social Media Use among Indian Adolescents and Young Adults found that 33.3% of people who scroll extensively presented with depression, 43.7% with high stress, and 25.3% with low self-esteem issues.

Sadam Hanjabam's queer activist organisation has successfully used football as a medium to create safe spaces for young people, moving mental health discussions from clinics to playgrounds.

"Therapy can be received from anywhere," he asserted, advocating for the community to become the "chosen therapist" and for sensitisation efforts to happen outside the community — in schools, hospitals, and amongst grassroots workers like ASHA workers.

Twice-daily flights from Bengaluru to Nagpur from Dec

BENGALURU, DHNS: Air India Express is set to launch twice-daily flights between Bengaluru and Nagpur starting December 1.

The flights from Bengaluru are scheduled to depart at 07.25 am and 6.30 pm, and will arrive in Nagpur at 9.30 am, 8.35 pm, respectively. The flights from Nagpur will depart at 10 am and 9.05 pm.

The airline currently operates more than 530 weekly flights from Bengaluru. "The new Nagpur–Bengaluru services add to Air India Express' recently launched routes from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Jodhpur, and Udaipur, reinforcing Bengaluru's position as a key hub in the rapidly expanding Air India Express network," stated a press statement from the airline.

Additionally, the airline is also expanding its Gulf network with new flights to Abu Dhabi from Delhi and Pune.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Driver's Day celebration as part of Shankaranag's birth anniversary: Nirmalanandanath Swamiji, Ramalinga Reddy, Dr C N Ashwathanarayana, C K Ramamurthy, M A Salim, Rachita Ram will be present: Peace Auto, Vishnu Sena Committee, Adarsh Auto and Taxi Drivers Association: Chandragupta Playground (Shalini Ground), Jayanagar Fifth Division; 4 pm

Kadambari Sarvabhauma Anakru Award Presentation: S R Ramaswamy, Award Recipients: S V Shanthakumari, Shatavadhani R Ganesh, Anakru Foundation: Keshavashilpa Hall, Rashtroththan Parishad Premises, Kempegowdanagar; 5 pm

Samajmukhi Sahitya Sammelana-2025: Programmes and lectures on five platforms: Bharat Scouts and Guides premises, Palace Road; 10 am

National Mental Health Festival 'Manotsava': Nimhans, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation: Hotel Lalit Ashok, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am

CULTURAL

'Nayi Kaledide' Drama: Rajendra Karanth: Namde Natane: Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm

K K Murthy Memorial Music Festival, Academy of Music Chowdaiah Award Presentation: Award Recipient: Anur Ananthakrishna Sharma: Choudaiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; 6 pm

'Kuchipudi' Dance Performance: Aarti Nair; K Radhakrishnan, Usha RK: Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation: Ramana Maharshi Heritage Auditorium, Sanjaynagar; 6 pm

Bharatanatyam Performance: Pallavi D H: Jayanthi Nair, Rashmi Prasad, Sainarayana Kalmadka, Bharat Nritya Sangeet Academy: Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 6 pm

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mist

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.6°C
Minimum	19.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	59%
Sunset (Nov 9)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Nov 10)	6:16 am
Moonrise	8:38 am
Moonset	9:03 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Govt. of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand 25 SILVER JUBILEE YEAR

देवभूमि रजत उत्सव

Heartfelt Congratulations on the STATE FORMATION DAY

"The Hon'ble Prime Minister has declared the third decade of the 21st century as the "Decade of Uttarakhand." In line with the Prime Minister's vision, we are working with unwavering determination to make the state an ideal one in every field."

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Silver Jubilee Utsav

Inauguration & Foundation Stone Laying

of projects worth ₹8260+ Crore
from various departments of Uttarakhand.

"There are two main pillars in building a developed India of the 21st century — first, pride in our heritage, and second, every possible effort toward development. Today, Uttarakhand is continuously strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be the decade of Uttarakhand."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

➤Main Inaugurated Projects

* Water Supply Project under AMRUT Scheme
  Drinking water supply project in 23 zones of Dehradun.
* Pithoragarh Electricity Substation
  Inauguration of the Pithoragarh electricity sub-station.
* Solar Power Plants: Solar power plants installed in government buildings.
* AstroTurf Hockey Ground: AstroTurf hockey ground established at the Haldwani Stadium.

➤Main Foundation Stone Laid Projects

* Song Dam Drinking Water Project: To supply 150 MLD (Million Litres per Day) of drinking water to Dehradun.
* Jamrani Multipurpose Project, Nainital: For drinking water, irrigation, and power generation.
* Establishment of Electricity Substations: Foundation laid for new electricity substations.
* Women's Sports College in Champawat: Establishment of a sports college for women.
* State-of-the-Art Milk Plant in Nainital: Establishment of a modern milk processing plant.

by

Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji

Date: 09th November, 2025 | Time : 9.00 AM | Venue: F.R.I., Dehradun, Uttarakhand

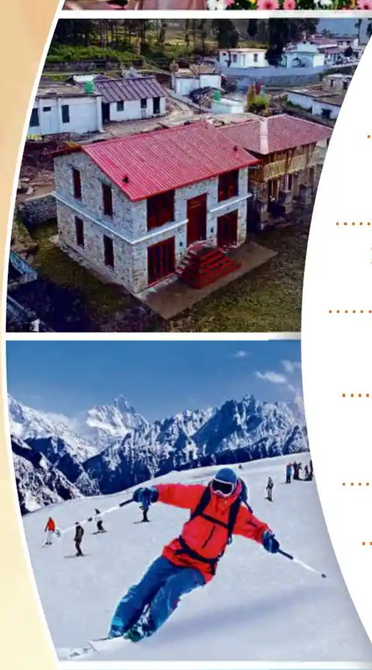
August Presence

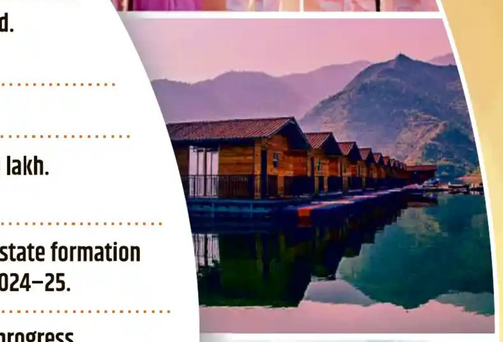
Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, (Retd)
Governor, Uttarakhand

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Sankalp NAYE UTTARAKHAND KA

- Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code.
- A strong land law, strict anti-conversion law, strict anti-cheating law, and anti-riot law have been enforced in the state.
- During the Global Investors Summit organized in the state, MoUs worth ₹3.56 lakh crore were signed. Investments worth more than ₹1 lakh crore have already been grounded.
- For the first time in the state's history, a budget exceeding ₹1 lakh crore was presented.
- The ex-gratia amount for the dependents of martyred soldiers has been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh. The ex-gratia for Param Vir Chakra awardees has been increased from ₹50 lakh to ₹1.5 crore.
- The size of the state's economy has increased 26 times, and per capita income has grown 17 times. At the time of state formation in the year 2000, the economy's size was ₹14,501 crore, which is estimated to grow to ₹3,78,240 crore in 2024–25.
- The reconstruction of Kedarnath and development works in Badrinath Dham under the master plan are in progress. Development projects worth ₹255 crore are underway to develop Badrinath Dham as a smart spiritual hill town.
- In the Kumaon region, under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, 48 temples are being connected as part of a pilgrimage circuit.
- With the construction of the elevated road between Delhi and Dehradun, the travel time will be reduced to just 2–2.5 hours.
- The Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail line project is progressing rapidly, with 70% of the work already completed.
- To promote startups in the state, a venture fund of ₹200 crore has been established.
- The old-age pension has been increased to ₹1,500. Now, both elderly spouses are entitled to receive old-age pension benefits. The pensions for the elderly, widows, and persons with disabilities will now be paid monthly instead of once every three months.
- Under the Vibrant Village Program, 51 border villages have been selected for planned development.
- Under the Chief Minister Antyodaya Free Gas Refill Scheme, around 1.75 lakh poor families in the state are receiving three free gas refills per year.





VIKSIT Bharat SASHAKT Uttarakhand

Issued in public interest by Department of Information and Public Relations, Uttarakhand www.uttarainformation.gov.in uttarakhandDIPR DIPR_UK uttarakhand DIPR

Hindus are responsible for Bharat: RSS chief

RSS, From Page 3

"We have started our dialogue with those who don't consider themselves Hindu. But they agree they are Bharatiyas. They agree they are Hindavi or Indic people," he said.

Bhagwat said harmony "is much needed". The RSS wants to hold its Sadbhavana meetings at the block level with caste leaders and heads of various religious sects. "Society must have an atmosphere of mutual goodwill, harmony and positivity," he said. A global outreach of the RSS will start from India's neighbourhood, Bhagwat said. "Most of our neighboring countries were Bharat 100 years ago. They are our people. Even in today's conditions, there are similarities," Bhagwat said.

Earlier in the lecture, Bhagwat said discussions on the RSS are largely based on "hearsay, narratives and perceptions".

"The Sangh has been described as a reaction or opposition to certain situations. That's not the case. Sangh is there to fulfil the compulsory need of every society: organisation," Bhagwat said. "We know our task is still incomplete. There are miles and miles to go. We are at it."

MoEF panel relies on 'false, outdated data' to review Sharavathy project

Ignored 'errors by KPCL, corrections on cost-benefit ratio'

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

An apex body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) looking into the proposal to build a power project in Sharavathy Lion Tailed Macaque sanctuary took into consideration 'false and outdated data' while deliberating on the project during its meeting on October 27, it is said.

This is the second time the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has looked into the project, after discussing its salient features on July 30.

Also, the committee has ignored the blatant errors made by KPCL and the corrections made after the errors were pointed out by the MoEF&CC.

The biggest of the errors pertains to the cost benefit ratio calculated by the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL). Earlier this year, MoEF&CC had expressed surprise at the exorbitantly high cost benefit ratio of 1:2,643.25.

The agency later reduced it to 1:75. The FAC continued its meeting based on the previous numbers.

A view of Sharavathi valley. The proposed Sharavathi Pumped Storage project impacts one of the last safe havens of Lion Tailed Macaque, a critically endangered species endemic to Western Ghats. DH FILE PHOTO

"There is a huge difference to earning Rs 75 for every Re 1 invested and previously claiming to earn Rs 2,643.25 per every rupee. Even the revised claim needs to be thoroughly reviewed. It's surprising that the FAC didn't notice the drastic reduction," an activist said.

Secondly, the committee accepted the claim that 'there are no protected archeological monuments, heritage sites... or important historical landmarks within the project area".

The claim has been disputed by residents who have noted that four monuments listed by Archeological Survey of India were located in the vicinity of the project. The state government had replied that building tunnel roads - as an alternative to surface roads - to access the power house would disturb nearly 28 acres of land compared to the 16 acres needed for widening the existing road from 3.5 to 5 metres.

The state pointed to portal openings, cut and cover segments and entry/exit points for the additional requirement of land. In the end, the FAC deferred the project, citing the direction by the National Board of Wildlife for a site inspection.

It asked the state government to submit a copy of the report on the site visit as well as a report on the wildlife mitigation plan.

Centre puts Sharavathy project on hold, warns of damage to Western Ghats

Sharavathy, From Page 3

The committee examined the engineering design and said the project involves two reservoirs, tunnels up to 3.2 km long, excavation to depths of up to 500 metres, and drilling and blasting for underground works.

It said the area falls in Seismic Zone 3 and that the combination of slope cutting, blasting and heavy monsoon rainfall could aggravate landslide and erosion risks.

It warned that such work can be disastrous not only to the ecology of the area but also to human habitations.

The minutes said the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central), Regional Office Bengaluru, "has not recommended the proposal" because of its location inside the Sharavathy Valley Sanctuary and the ecological sensitivity of the central Western Ghats. The Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka also raised objections, warning that implementation of the project can cause "enormous damage" to the flora and fauna of the landscape. The FAC cited his observation that the ecological fallout far outweighs the economic benefits that may be accrued by commissioning this project.

The committee further said that transmission line routes proposed for the evacuation of power prima facie appear to be in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and that forest clearance for those lines is not clear.

According to the minutes, the committee expressed concern over the proposed compensatory afforestation areas, saying that "the CA sites proposed are ecologically different from the wet evergreen forests being lost."

It said the project proponent must prepare a scientifically designed wildlife mitigation plan and conduct a detailed hydrological study before the proposal can be considered.

The FAC directed that tree felling be avoided or reduced to the bare minimum and that the layout of the project shall be finalised in consultation with the chief wildlife warden and as per the approved wildlife management plan. After detailed deliberations, the committee decided to defer the proposal and sought additional information and clarifications from the state government and the user agency.

Parking violations: 10 tow vehicles to prowl on 12 key corridors

Parking, From Page 3

Targeting 154 critical hotspots

The enforcement drive is planned across key locations mapped by the Traffic Department. The proposal details 12 high-density corridor roads, 43 notorious congestion junctions, and 99 major roads identified for high traffic flow challenges.

"I have written to all five commissioners, and we have asked them to provide both towing vehicles and commission staff for this operation," JCP Reddy told *DH*. "We will take action on 12 high-density corridors, 43 major junctions, and 99 congested roads across the city."

Among the corridors earmarked for stringent enforcement are crucial stretches like the Outer Ring Road (Tumakuru Road to Goraguntepalya), Hosur Road (St John's Hospital to Central Silk Board), and Ballari Road (Chalukya Circle to Hebbal).

Notorious junctions like Hebbal, Silk Board, KR Puram, and Jedi Mara are also top priorities, where even minor unauthorised stops can trigger massive bottlenecks.

Crucially, the proposal seeks to authorise a new dual fine structure under the Motor Vehicles (MV) Law and the Greater Bengaluru Administration (GBA) Act, to ensure deterrence and revenue sharing with the municipal body.

Under the new combined regime, two-wheelers violating parking rules will face a total fine of Rs 1,000 which includes the Rs 500 penalty under the MV Law for violation of parking prohibition and an additional Rs 500 under the GBA Act.

For cars and other vehicles, the combined fine will be significantly steeper, amounting to Rs 1,500 (Rs 500 under MV Law and Rs 1,000 under the GBA Act). Officers above the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) will be authorised to collect the fine as per the rule.

Need for enforcement

BTP believes this joint action against unauthorised parking will be instrumental in ensuring "smooth movement of the public and relieving traffic congestion," transforming the current focus from merely managing jams to proactively eliminating their root causes.

Illusion of welfare, reality of debt

POLITICAL MANIFESTO, FROM PAGE 1

If Bihar is a laboratory of promises, Karnataka spells a cautionary tale.

Its 2023 'five guarantees' experiment serves as the definitive post-mortem for this brand of politics. The consequences were laid bare in a devastating 2025 report from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). In a single year, the guarantees flipped Karnataka from a revenue surplus state into a state with a Rs 9,271 crore revenue deficit. The fiscal deficit, the gap between what the state earns and what it spends, ballooned to Rs 65,522 crore.

But the true analytical insight is not the debt itself. It is the trade-off. To fund the guarantees, the state government had to find the money. It did so by defaulting on its own future.

The CAG report provides the smoking gun. Capital expenditure was cut by Rs 5,229 crore. This directly led to a 68% surge in incomplete infrastructure projects.

The NITI Aayog's 2025 Fiscal Health Index (FHI) confirms this decline. Karnataka, once a fiscal model, has slipped from third to tenth in the rankings. This fall predates the current government, proving the malady is a bipartisan indulgence. Populism, once a symptom, is now the system.

A contagion of red ink

This fiscal recklessness is not unique to Karnataka. Punjab, with an FHI score of just 10.7 exemplifies the endgame of this strategy. Its debt has ballooned and its crippling interest payments now choke all productive spending. It is a state perpetually borrowing just to pay the interest on what it has already borrowed.

Andhra Pradesh tells a similar story, with its own data showing a staggering 84% fall in social capital expenditure as it diverts funds to revenue-side giveaways.

In both these states, the election manifestos of political parties were lined with freebies; what was missing from these poll documents was an economic roadmap to fund these political profligacies.

Yet, this is a political choice, not an economic inevitability. The same NITI Aayog report provides a powerful counter-narrative. Odisha, despite its 'poor' image, boasts the richest fiscal health in India with a score of 67.8.

It has achieved this by prioritising capital spending and prudent debt management. Uttar Pradesh, a state of enormous scale and developmental needs, has also demonstrated that discipline is possible, maintaining its capital expenditure nearly twice the national average.

These states prove that fiscal discipline is a political, not geographic, choice.

Fraud of freebies

The fraud of populist manifestos is not just a moral argument. It is a mathematical one. Data on fiscal multipliers exposes the con.

A 2022 NIPFP (National Institute of Public Finance and Policy) report found that for every rupee spent on capital expenditure (CapEx), the economy grows by Rs 2.45. This is an investment. It builds a road, a port, or a power grid that lowers logistics costs, 'crowds in' private money and creates sustainable, long-term jobs.

In stark contrast, every rupee spent on transfer payments (subsidies, freebies) creates only Rs 0.98 in economic output. It is a net economic loss. The money is consumed and then it is gone, leaving no asset behind and creating no new productive capacity.

Populist manifestos are, therefore, mathematically anti-growth. They champion the 0.98 multiplier while suffocating the 2.45 ones. This 'crowding out' effect is what the CAG report found in Karnataka.

A moral reckoning?

This raises the ethical question. Who pays for free? It's not the politician who pays, but the voter's child. Every subsidy today is a future tax on the citizenry for tomorrow. The tragedy here is that most citizens are applauding rhetorical promises while being pickpocketed in daylight.

The solution to this may not come from the judiciary. The Supreme Court's 2013 precedent explicitly ruled that 'irrational freebies' in a manifesto cannot be legally classified as a 'corrupt practice'.

The old model of 'Revenue Deficit Grants' effectively created a perverse incentive, rewarding states for being fiscally irresponsible by sending them a cheque to plug the hole. A revolutionary new model being proposed is the 'Development Deficit Grant'. This would link federal transfers directly to fiscal prudence and CapEx targets.

India's political crisis is not merely fiscal; it is increasingly moral, dismantling the social and political contract. It is a crisis of accountability, where politicians have learned that they can promise the moon without paying for the telescope, confident that the bill will be paid by a future generation. The reckoning, perhaps, may come, not when the money runs out, but when voters finally realise they have been funding their own illusion of plenty.

(Deepanshu is dean, O P Jindal Global University and visiting professor at LSE and Research Fellow, University of Oxford; with inputs from Ankur Singh, research analyst, Centre for New Economic Studies)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/156/2025
Dated : 04-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Conducting Final location survey for New line between Shivamogga - Sringeri - Mangaluru (332 km), Talguppa - Honnavara (95 km), Almatti - Yadgir (162 km) and Bhadravathi - Chikjajur (73 km). **(Tender Ref. No. SWR-FLS-RATE-CONTRACT-03)**	Rs. 33,52,62,609/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 15-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/623/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, having its office at No. 1794, 14th Main, 30th Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bengaluru - 560043 and intend to enter into Joint Development Agreement with Owner **Smt Rangalakshmi @ Rangalakshmamma** w/o Sri N.Devarajaiah is the absolute owner of converted land property bearing Sy. No **132**, which measuring **1 acre 22 guntas**, situated at **Suradenapura Village**, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore North District in vide; Conversion Order dated **18/03/2009**, in order **No.ALN(NAH)SR:92/2007-08**, for residential use, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Hanumakka w/o Patalappa, **West by:** Land of Marappa, **North by:** Land of M.S.R Company, **South by:** Land of Patalappa and childrens and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. I**.

WHEREAS Sri N.Devarajaiah s/o Late Narasimhaiah is the absolute owner of converted land property bearing Sy. No **132**, which measuring **2 acres**, situated at **Suradenapura Village**, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore North District, in vide; Conversion Order dated **18/03/2009** in order No.**ALN(NAH)SR:93/2007-08**, for residential use, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Patalappa and childrens, **West by:** Land of Patalappa and childrens, **North by:** Remaining Land of Sy.No. 132, **South by:** Land of Hanumakka w/o Patalappa and referred to as schedule property of **Item No. II**.

WHEREAS Sri D.Narasimhamurthy s/o Sri N.Devarajaiah is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing old Sy.No. 81/2, New Sy. No **81/7**, which measuring **14.04 Guntas** and exclusive of **04.08 guntas 'B'** Kharab land, situated at **Kadathanamale Village**, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore North District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sri Channappa and Suradenapura Gadi, **West by:** S.H. Road, **North by:** Land of Avalahalli K.C.M.Gowda, **South by:** Remaining Land of same Sy.No and referred to as schedule property of **Item No.III**,

which total measuring of **Item.No.I to III = 1 Acres 22 Guntas + 2 Acres + 14.04 Guntas = 3 Acres 36.04 Guntas** and exclusive of **04.08 guntas 'B'** Kharab land in New Sy. No **81/7** and commonly bounded on **East by:** Private Lands, **West by:** State Highway Road, **North by:** Private Lands, **South by:** Private Lands and referred to as **"Composite Schedule Property"**.

Any person or Any Authority or Any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Joint Development Agreement of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **10** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps for entering into Joint Development Agreement.

LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA., ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

Ministry of Culture Government of India
CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING
(Ministry of Culture, Government of India)
Plot No. 15 A, Sector – 7, Dwarka, New Delhi – 110075

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO YOUNG ARTISTES IN DIFFERENT CULTURAL FIELDS (SYA)

Offline applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India in the field of Indian Classical Music, Indian Classical Dance, Theatre, Mime, Visual art, Folk, Traditional and Indigenous Arts and Light Classical Musicfor the "*Award of Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields.*"

Please note that applications are invited for the year 2025-26 with effect from 10th November, 2025. There are 400 scholarships available this year. Details of the scheme, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and application form are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and CCRT.

www.indiaculture.gov.in, www.ccrtindia.gov.in

15th December, 2025 is the last date for submission of applications.
ONLY OFFLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

cbc09127/12/0007/2526

ENTRY	Air Force Common Admission Test (AFCAT) Entry	NCC Special Entry
BRANCHES	Flying/ Technical/ Weapon Systems/ Administration/ Logistics/ Accounts/ Education/ Meteorology	Flying (NCC Air Wing 'C' certificate is mandatory)

AFCAT Entry: Registration mandatory and online exam/ NCC Special Entry registration mandatory and no online exam
Aadhaar card is mandatory for online registration
Registrations open from **10 Nov 2025 till 09 Dec 2025**
For more details, refer to Employment News dated 08 Nov 2025 and for detailed notification visit our website **careerairforce.gov.in** and **afcat.edcil.co.in**

For updates, follow us on
DISHA by Indian Air Force careeriniaf CareerinIAF

DISHA Cell, Air Headquarter, Vayu Bhawan
Tel: 011-23013690 | Toll-free No.: 1800-11-2448 | E-mail: careeriniaf@gmail.com

CBC 10801/13/0016/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 23/2025/SBC
Dated : 04-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.

Description in brief : Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Control Transformer as per RDSO Specification. **(Tender No. L8256585) (Qty : 1050 Nos)**	

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 03-12-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager
PUB/620/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/153/2025
Dated : 31-10-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of Proposed Doubling of Track including Signal & Tele Communication, Electrification of New line & Upgradation of OHE of Existing line & Electrical General Service works between Toranagallu (incl.) and Ranajitpura (excl.) (21.460 km). **(Tender Ref. No: TNGL-RNJP-EPC-01)**	Rs. 314,62,71,018/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 30-01-2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/618/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER
The following **e-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply.** Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/ Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594. **[A] No.COS/ CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 03/11/ 2025.Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 91250057A. Brief Description of Item:** Completely Assembled Temperature Sensor For 3-Phase Traction Motor Type 6FRA-6068, Spec. No. 4TMS.096.085 REV-2, STR No. CLW/TM/ 17320 REV.1. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity:1356.00 Numbers. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹412720.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST):29/11/2025 at11:00 AM. [B] No.COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 04/11/2025. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 91251010A. Brief Description of Item:** Associated Components of Machined Stator Assembly Each Set Consisting of 11 Items Drg. Nos. As Per Annexure-A, Specn. No. 4TMS.096.068 REV.-2, Alt.1, Str No. RDSO/ 2007/ EL/ STR/0021 REV-1. **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity:1113.00 set. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹2000000.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 25/11/2025 at 11:00 AM.**
PR8/240 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

K'taka teachers to protest in Delhi against mandatory TET qualification

BENGALURU, DHNS: Thousands of teachers from the state will march to New Delhi on November 24 to protest the decision that all teachers, including those currently in service, mandatorily clear the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET).

In the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling mandating that all teachers clear TET, the Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association has not only decided to hold a demonstration opposing the decision, but has also invited teachers from other states to participate in the protest.

As many as 1.2 lakh teachers currently in service in the state will be impacted by the order. Association president Chandrashekhar Nuggali said, "We have discussed this subject with both the Law and School Education ministers. We have learnt that the state government has decided to file a review petition on this matter in the Supreme Court."

However, the association has decided to proceed with its planned protest in the hope of impelling the Centre to intervene and resolve the issue. Members of the association are also planning to meet Unions Ministers H D Kumaraswamy and Pralhad Joshi and enlisting their support for the cause.

"We want working teachers to be exempted from having to clear TET. They had all the necessary qualifications and were duly appointed by the government. The test must be made mandatory only for aspiring teachers," said Nuggali, adding that they would also try to meet PM Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Officials mum over videos of 'VIP facility for B'luru jail inmates'

Criminals seen using smartphones, watching TV in prison

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The videos doing rounds on social media sparked widespread outrage and raised serious questions about security lapses in the high-security Central Jail in Parappana Agrahara, Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

A bunch of video footages purportedly showing notorious inmates, including a suspected member of a terror outfit,' using smart phones and enjoying the luxury of watching LED TVs inside the barracks of Parappana Agrahara central prison, went viral on Saturday.

The videos doing rounds on social media sparked widespread outrage and raised serious questions about security lapses in the high-security facility.

However, officials from the prison department, refused to verify the authenticity of the video and didn't confirm about facilities given to inmates.

In the first video, notorious serial rapist Umesh Reddy, is seen using two smartphones and watching television. He is seen enjoying an 'item song' on a table-top LED TV, while talking over the phone.

Reddy, who terrorised women across the state between 1996 and 2002, was convicted for multiple cases of rape and murder.

In another video, Tarun Raju, an accused in the gold smuggling case along with actor Ranya Rao, was seen using a mobile phone and cooking his own food on the prison premises. Reports suggest he enjoys privileges similar to those of VIP inmates, pointing to possible 'administrative lapses'.

Another video purportedly shows Juhad Hameed Shakeel, an accused in an ISIS-related case.

Shakeel, who was arrested for recruiting youths into the ISIS outfit, is seen enjoying access to gadgets and other comforts inside the jail, in sharp contrast to the strict restrictions expected for high-risk inmates.

Residents living around Parappana Agrahara central prison complain of poor mobile network due to high-tech signal jammers installed inside the facility. But the videos show inmates using mobile phones with uninterrupted network coverage and watching HD quality videos inside their cells.

DH tried to reach senior police officers for a comment, but in vain.

AIGP (prisons) visits jail, orders probe

Following media reports of prison videos going viral, P V Anand Reddy, additional inspector general of prisons visited the central jail on Saturday and ordered an inquiry, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

In a press release, Reddy said that in the visuals telecast by media, inmates were seen using mobile phones and sitting in the verandah of the prison barracks.

The inmates in question have been in the prison since 2023, it said.

An inquiry is underway to ascertain how these inmates obtained mobile phones, who brought the phones inside the prison, who handed them over to the inmates, how the videos were recorded and who shared them with the media.

Strict disciplinary action will be taken against the inmates involved and any prison staff found guilty of negligence in this incident.

12-day fest to mark 16th anniversary of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Bengaluru Kendra, is set to mark its Sixtieth Anniversary with a grand 12-day festival titled "Santhavani" from November 10 to 21.

Hosted at Khincha Hall on Race Course Road, the festival aims to highlight the invaluable contribution of Indian poet-saints, philosophers, and spiritual thinkers in enriching the nation's diverse heritage.

The event is segmented into two main phases: a Film Festival followed by a series of illuminating sessions featuring eminent scholars and spiritual leaders.

The festival will kick off with a five-day film festival from November 10 to 14, dedicated to devotional classics.

The inauguration on November 10 will be led by National Awardee Film Director, T S Nagabharana.

The opening day will also see the inauguration of a book exhibition-cum-sale, featuring bestsellers on related topics, by noted critic and columnist Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya.

The core lecture series will run from November 15 to 21. The sessions will be inaugurated by M Veerappa Moily, Former Chief Minister of Karnataka and Saraswathi Samman Recipient, with a Keynote Address by Shatavadhani R Ganesh.

The sessions promise a deep dive into the lives and philosophies of spiritual traditions across India and beyond, featuring an array of speakers. Topics will range from the Vaishnava and Shaiva traditions of the South to the philosophies of the North.

Entry to all events is free, though interested members of the public must register via the BVB website or email santvanibvbblr@gmail.com by November 10.

Bhakta Kanakadasa (1960) classic devotional film starring the legendary Dr Rajkumar will be screened on November 10 at 4 pm.

ED attaches Rs 21-cr assets of Karwar Cong MLA Satish Sail

BENGALURU, DHNS

The officials of Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, on Friday said that they had provisionally attached immovable properties worth Rs 21 crore of Karwar Congress MLA Satish Sail under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with the illegal export of iron ore.

A provisional order was issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on November 6 and the attached properties belong to Sail, who holds these assets through his Goa-based company named Shree Mallikarjun shipping Pvt Ltd. (SMSPL), the ED said in a statement.

According to a charge-sheet filed by the law enforcement agency, officials of the Forest Department had visited Belekeri Port on March 15, 2010, and discovered a large quantity of iron ore stored within the port area.

Their inquiry revealed that a portion of the stock did not have valid permits or passes issued by the Department of Mines & Geology and the Forest Department. A mahazar was drawn up, and around five lakh metric tonnes of iron ore fines were seized.

Investigations revealed that Sail, the managing director of SMSPL, had claimed to have purchased 1.54631 lakh metric tonnes of seized iron ore fines from various suppliers trading in the commodity. The ED alleged that Sail, in collusion with the port conservator, subsequently exported the illegally procured ore to China through vessels such as MV Columbia and MV Mandarin Harvest. The illegal proceeds were layered through a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

Spl court issues NBW against Sail

A special court for cases involving MP/MLAs has issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Karwar MLA Satish Sail for not cooperating with the court in a case pertaining to illegal export of iron ore from Belekeri port.

Special court judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat also ordered issuance of notice to the person who stood surety to Satish Sail.

During the trial in the 2014 case, the application was moved on behalf of Sail seeking exemption from presence. An advocate requested the court to defer the recording of evidence since Sail and his counsel are attending a court hearing in Dharwad. However, the special court observed that coercive steps are required to be taken against Sail.

"It is settled law that being engaged in some other court is not a ground to seek adjournment or deferring the proceedings. This is a special court established as per the kind directions of the Apex Court to try the cases against sitting and former MPs and MLAs as expeditiously as possible. In spite of the same, A-1 and his counsel are not cooperating with the court," the court said, posting the matter to November 10.

ON THE RADAR

- 12,500 sqm of open land in Chicalim village, Mormugao.
- 16,850 sqm of agricultural property known as Pedro Galle Cotta in Mormugao taluk, South Goa
- Commercial premises on the 1st to 5th floors of Our Lady of Merces Building, opposite Kadamba bus stand, Vasco Da Gama, Goa, having a present market value about Rs 64 crore.

Different tigers involved in four attacks in Saragur taluk, says APCCF

MYSURU, DHNS: Forest officials suspect that different tigers were involved in all four attacks reported in Saragur taluk of Mysuru district from October 16, and that repeated incidents in the same place is only by chance, according to Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Kumar Pushkar.

"All four cases have happened in different villages. But, coincidentally in nearby ranges," Pushkar said.

During an interaction with *DH*, he said, "There is no specific reason. A rise in number of conflicts, including attacks on human and cattle, are due to an increase in tiger population. Also, expanse of human habitation and agricultural cultivations have expanded right up to forest boundary."

When asked why were repeated incidents occurring in Saragur taluk alone, he said, "It is a matter of chance. Definitely not related to tourism."

Coincidentally two female tigers with cubs are involved in two of the attacks. Combing operations are on, to rescue the tigers which killed Chowda Naika (35) on Friday morning; Doddaningaiah (53) on October 31; and Rajashekar (65) on October 26.

Two cubs of the tigress, which attacked Rajeshekar, are also rescued. The tigress, which injured Madegowda on October 16 and its two cubs are rescued and the operation to rescue its one more cub is on.

Forest watcher injured during leopard rescue operation

GUNDLUPET-CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: A forest watcher injured during a combing operation in Omkar range of Yediyala sub division of Bandipur Tiger Reserve at Yadavanahalli in Gundlupet taluk of Chamarajanagar district on Saturday.

Bangaaru is the injured watcher. He suffered injuries on his hand, neck and head. After first aid at the Begur Community health centre, he was shifted to a hospital in Mysuru for further treatment. Followed by a complaint, a team of the Forest department personnel had taken a combing operation to rescue a leopard which had killed the sheep.

SCAN
WATCH NOW!
DH
ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
Freedom
Healthy Cooking Oils
presents
cuisines of karnataka
Season 4
Discover the Timeless, Rich Treasures of Karnataka's Flavours in this Exciting Video Series!
Step into the heart of Karnataka's culinary tradition with Chef Oggarane Dabbi Murali and Suchitra Watch as he crafts three beloved dishes, Bachelor quick mutton fry, Malavalli white chicken pulav and Nati kholi bassaru. Bringing you a taste of the state's rich heritage. These recipes are a true celebration of Karnataka's authentic flavours, packed with tradition and taste that'll transport your taste buds.
Cook up a storm and share your masterpiece at dh@deccanherald.co.in for a chance to win exciting prizes!
COLLATERAL
LPG Partner
Indane
Kitchen Partner
Prestige
Special Partner
BHIMA
Snacks Partner
Lay's
Associate Sponsors
SBI card
Vencobb
Vencobb No.1 Tastiest Chicken
eco crystal
WATER TREATMENT

Take extra classes to make up for lost time, govt & aided schools tolds

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to complete the Social and Educational Survey, the state decided to extend the Dasara vacation for government and government-aided schools by ten days so the teachers could be deputed for the caste census. Consequently, these schools have fallen back in covering the syllabus. To make up for lost time, the Department of School Education and Literacy has instructed these schools to take an additional class for an hour every day.

The department has instructed schools to conduct an extra class for primary school students till February 5, 2026, and up to January 24, 2026 for high school students. But the schools can decide whether they want to conduct the extra class in the morning or in the evening. As mentioned in the circular, extension of the Dasara vacation resulted in a loss of eight full school days in addition to two half-days (Saturdays).

The government's decision to extend the deadline for completion of the caste census till October 16 resulted in classes resuming at schools only after Deepavali. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reportedly instructed the Principal Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy to issue an order directing schools to conduct additional classes.

The loss of class hours was more in primary schools – 74 – compared to high schools, which only lost 66. While the additional class will be held for 40 minutes for primary school students, the duration of these classes will be 45 minutes in high schools. The management of schools have also been instructed to conduct special classes for underperforming students between January and March.

Incidentally, several experts had expressed their disapproval of the government's decision to extend the Dasara vacation.

DS MAX
JOY OF LIVING
Chandapura
10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739
2-BHK STARTS @
₹ 61 L*
3-BHK STARTS @
₹ 89 L*
CREDAI BENGALURU
2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179
WHITEFIELD
10 MINS HOPEFARM METRO STN.
₹ 72.34 L - 1.30 Cr*
G+14
PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178
YELAHANKA
5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE
₹ 49.36 - 88.53 Lakhs*
G+14
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721
MYSORE ROAD
NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.
₹ 61.76 - 87.47 Lakhs*
G+14
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/309/PR/060923/006244
TUMKUR ROAD
10 MINS. MADAVARA METRO STN.
₹ 80.30 L - 1.01 Cr*
G+9
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724
SILKBOARD
NEAR SINGASANDRA METRO STN.
₹ 83.97 L - 1.31 Cr*
G+14
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/472/PR/250225/007524
AIRPORT ROAD
NEAR PRESTIGE TECH IT PARK
₹ 72.02 L - 1.21 Cr*
G+14
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660
SARJAPURA
SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD
₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs*
G+4
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489
BANASHANKARI
OPP. NPS SCHOOL (3 & 4-BHK)
₹ 1.34 - 2.17 Cr*
G+3
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972
HOSA ROAD METRO
NEAR ELECTRONIC CITY
₹ 67.92 L - 1.34 Cr*
G+4
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973
BANNERGHATTA RD.
NEAR KOPPA GATE
₹ 56.64 - 82.18 Lakhs*
G+14
*T & C Apply
Visit our website or talk to our advisors for the complete portfolio.
FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC INFORMATION
7022 791 222
www.dsmaxproperties.com
Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in

INTERVIEW

'Varsity working to overcome faculty shortage in IT-related branches'

AI push, upskilling of students VTU's priorities, says VC

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now a dedicated branch at Visvesvaraya Technology University (VTU), its Vice-Chancellor **S Vidyashankar** tells DH's **Rashmi Belur**. Vidyashankar says skill must become the main component in engineering education. Excerpts:

It is said Artificial Intelligence (AI) will replace jobs? How is the prime technical university of the state preparing for this challenge?
We have introduced a dedicated branch for AI. There is also initial introduction to AI, which is common to all engineering branches. The university has established a dedicated platform for students who wish to learn AI. A lot many trainings are going on and we are allowing computer science students to study AI with 18 credits and get a minor degree. A team of experts from the university will soon be visiting a specialised AI university established at Gurgaon to study the set-up and the way it is working.

A majority of engineering graduates from Karnataka reportedly lack skills to get employed. What's your take on this?
Considering the industry feedback, we have introduced skill as the main component in engineering education. The university has introduced a Idea lab. To upskill our students, we have revised the curriculum, where skill is one of the mandatory subjects. Students too should take it seriously.

At least 50% of the students enrolling for engineering courses in the state are from rural areas and government colleges. What are the measures taken to improve their communication skills?
A: Understanding the needs of students, we have associated with a company called Quick Learn, which will help students improve their communication skills using the online platform available for free. Thousands of students have already registered and are benefiting.

S Vidyashankar

Placements seem to be an issue with most of the colleges, except a few top ones in cities like Bengaluru and Mysuru.
Taking the placements issue seriously and with the aim to provide jobs to all eligible students, the university has created a dedicated platform to assess students' skill sets. We are conducting pool campuses where mass recruitments are happening. The university is also signing an MoU with Google, under which they will enrol, train and place students.

Why can't the university demand the regulatory body to put a cap on engineering seats, considering the number of seats going vacant every year?
No, I don't agree with the perception that engineering seats are going vacant. It is not that vacancies have increased. The additional seats secured by some colleges in some streams are lying vacant. Moreover, private universities, with intake in thousands, are filling up seats through the Karnataka Examination Authority. Their seats are also getting added to the list. Private universities are under the control of the state government and we have no say in it. Real admission data will be available only after the approval process is completed.

Engineering education reportedly lacks in quality due to shortage of faculties. Do you agree?
I agree that there is a shortage of faculties, but not in all branches. The shortage is only in computer science and other IT-related branches, mainly because of the enhanced intake for these branches. Now, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has allowed teachers in other branches to acquire 18 credits through the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) and teach computer science and related branches, but the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) has to approve it.

Recently Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the Karnataka Quantum Mission to establish the state as a global quantum capital by 2035. How is your university preparing for it?
Being the only state-run and largest technical university in the state, we are putting in lot of efforts in quantum computing and even establishing a quantum lab. We have already signed an agreement with two companies which are the largest manufacturers of quantum computers. In a first, we are also launching MTech course in quantum technology.

Panel refuses to accept govt explanation on Yettinahole violations

Seeks 'conclusive' report on those responsible for forest violations

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government's efforts to expedite the Yettinahole project continue to be hit by past forest violations by its contractors with a committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) seeking a detailed report on the violations.

The violations pertain to the use of hundreds of acres of forest land without the necessary clearances for the diversion. The delay in the project has led to the escalation of the cost.

The government had recently revealed the latest estimate of the cost at Rs 23,251 crore. A total of 428.25 acres land has been sought by the Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL) for the project. However, the state government had admitted to taking up work in 213.23 acres without permission. Forest authorities had put the extent of the violation at 266.87 acres or 62% of the land.

The state government recently claimed that the violations were primarily due to the incorrect revenue records. VJNL had replied that lands under cultivation and possession of farmers with valid documents, later turned out to be forest lands. Therefore, except for violation of a very small patch of land in Ramadevarahall forest in 2019, other violations were inadvertent errors.

The committee, however, deferred the proposal and sought a detailed report on the matter from state forest officers as well as the regional office of the MoEF&CC. It specifically sought to know whether work in over 200 acres was attributable to the VJNL. "The report should be conclusive about the violation and the responsible agencies. In case the Regional Office, Bengaluru, opts for an independent report, he shall be at liberty to do so," it said. The state government was told to consider consulting the Wildlife Institute of India to vet the wildlife mitigation plan. The plan is yet to get the approval of the state forest department.

People swarm the new Vande Bharat Express at KSR Bengaluru station on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Fanfare along route of inaugural Ernakulam-B'luru Vande Bharat Exp

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Ernakulam–KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express through video conferencing on Saturday.

At Ernakulam Junction, the local flagging-off ceremony was graced by Kerala Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar. Stations en route wore a festive look as functions were organised to welcome the new train.

At KSR Bengaluru, the train was welcomed by Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, BJP MP P C Mohan and senior officials of South Western Railway, along with other public representatives. This is the 12th Vande Bharat Express for Karnataka.

Speaking at the event, Kumaraswamy called the service a significant achievement in India's mobility transformation. Highlighting the route's importance for inter-state connectivity, the former CM said it would help thousands of travellers.

"The corridor connects two vibrant centres of commerce, education and culture," he said.

This is the third Vande Bharat service for Kerala and the first inter-state Vande Bharat connecting Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The journey time between Ernakulam and Bengaluru will be 8 hours and 40 minutes.

According to the Railways, the new train will save close to two hours of travel time compared to the existing fastest day service. This is the first Vande Bharat Express service connecting Palakkad.

"This new service will enhance regional connectivity, promote tourism and foster economic growth by linking key commercial and cultural centres of south India, benefiting IT professionals, business travellers, tourists and students among others," the Railways said in a statement.

The train departs from KSR Bengaluru at 5.10 am and reach Ernakulam at 1.50 pm. The return service starts at 2.20 pm and arrive in KSR Bengaluru at 11 pm.

The train runs on all days, except Wednesday. The stoppages include KR Puram, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Palakkad and Thrissur.

Minister persuades sugarcane growers to call off protest

Farmers demand govt to announce uniform price across state

BELAGAVI, DHNS

The 10-day-long protest by sugarcane growers at Gurlapur Cross in the district, pressing the government to fulfil their eight-point demand, ended on Saturday following a request by Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil.

The farmers, who had announced ending the protest on Friday, had resumed their protest on Saturday at Gurlapur Cross seeking clarity from the government on the decisions taken during the meeting with sugar factory owners.

Shivanand Patil rushed to the protest site, along with an order copy, to persuade farmers to end the protest. Addressing the farmers, Patil said, The chief minister has announced assistance to the crisis-ridden farmers. The Centre is responsible for the confusion over price. We have done everything we could... I request you to end the protest."

Raitha Sangh state honorary president Shashikant Guruji and state president Chunappa Pujari called off the protest. The farmer leaders said, "The price announced by the government will vary based on the recovery rate. The government should order the factory owners to pay uniform prices across the state," they demanded.

Patil further said, "The sugar mills are plagued with several issues. There is not much difference in the pricing of sugar manufactured for domestic use and industrial use. They are incurring losses because of it. They have written to Union minister Pralhad Joshi for the revision of the prices of refined sugar used for industrial needs. But the union minister has not bothered to address the problems faced by the farmers and mill owners," he charged.

"I thought the district minister would intervene and resolve the sugarcane growers' issues. I was wrong. Because of the delay in meeting you and listening to your grievances, I faced your wrath. You threw bottles, slippers," he said.

Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil gives a copy of state government's order on sugarcane price announced on Friday, to the farmer leaders at the protest site at Gurlapur Cross in Belagavi district on Saturday.

Cong govt targeting Centre to hide failure: Joshi

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for blaming the Centre over the ongoing sugarcane growers' protest, asserting that it is the state government's mismanagement that has pushed farmers into distress.

Pralhad Joshi

Speaking to reporters in Dharwad, Joshi questioned why such protests are taking place only in Karnataka and not in other sugarcane-growing states. "This clearly shows that the Karnataka government has failed to pass on the benefits to sugarcane growers, leading to the current turmoil," he said.

The union minister pointed out that sugarcane prices in Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are higher compared to Karnataka, even though these states have fixed the same Minimum Support Price (MSP) as announced by the Centre.

Bailhongal bandh total; farmers end indefinite stir

The Bailhongal bandh, called by the sugarcane farmers and several farmer organisations on Saturday, demanding Rs 3,500 per tonne of sugarcane, was total and complete, reports DHNS from Belagavi.

The protesters expressed their anguish by throwing stones at the Inamdar Sugar factory office and setting fire on tyres. Isolated incidents of stone pelting on buses and shops were reported. The agitating farmers took out a bike rally in the town.

Former MLA Vishwanath Patil, Shrishail Bolannavar, Shankar Madalagi, Mahantesh Kamatar, F S Siddanagouda among others took part in the protest.

The farmers announced ending their indefinite protest in the evening following Minister Shivanand Patil's visit to Gurlapur Cross.

On the allegations of fraudulent weighing of cane by factories, Shivanand Patil said, "This is concerned with the department managed by K H Muniyappa. I will bring it to his notice," he told farmers.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday had announced that the factories have agreed to pay Rs 3250 per tonne of sugarcane and the government would contribute Rs 50 per tonne, bringing the total to Rs 3,300.

HDK says Cong came to power in state by 'stealing votes'

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Saturday accused the Congress of coming to power in the state through 'vote chori.'

Speaking on the sidelines of an event to welcome the newly launched Ernakulam–KSR Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express here, Kumaraswamy said, "Those who committed vote theft are now attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

Kumaraswamy

"Those making vote theft allegations against BJP came to power in the state by stealing votes. If that is not the case, how were they able to predict so precisely that they will win 136 seats? How did they know that exact number before? On what basis did they claim it?" he said.

Kumaraswamy said, "Did Narendra Modi 'steal votes' so that the BJP wins just 67 seats in Karnataka? Congress leaders are misleading the public with such baseless allegations. The people of the state are facing several serious issues and those should be the focus areas of a responsible government".

Criticising the joint news conference held by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, he said, "I thought it must be about some major issue. But it was just to speak about a false issue. The people of Karnataka have witnessed the CM and DCM making baseless allegations. They are doing it only to divert public attention. The people will permanently send Congress home very soon".

Responding to queries on Shivakumar being absent for the Vande Bharat event, he said, "He has no time to focus on development. He is busy with vote-theft politics".

'Vote chori': State Congress collects 1.12 crore signatures

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state Congress said on Saturday that it has collected 1.12 crore signatures for the party's 'vote chori' campaign with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of 'destroying' independent institutions, including the Election Commission (EC).

All signatures will be sent to the AICC, which will decide on handing them over to President Droupadi Murmu, Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president D K Shivakumar said.

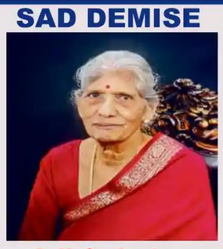
Speaking on the occasion, the CM accused the EC of "taking orders" from the union government.

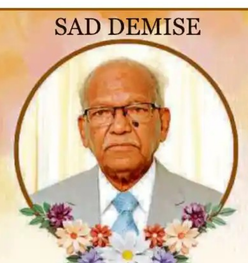
"After Modi became PM, all independent institutions are being destroyed - CBI, Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax and now EC," Siddaramaiah said. "It is proved that BJP is stealing votes."

Shivakumar said the 'vote chori' campaign was "a public movement" and that signatures were collected from all over Karnataka.

"People have lost faith (in EC). That's why our government has decided that local body elections will be held with ballot papers and not electronic voting machines," he said, adding that papers containing the signatures would be sent to Delhi in boxes by air.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

SAD DEMISE

A. K. Susheela
Passed away peacefully on 03-11-2025
We are missing you every moment. That smile, that kindness, that sense of humour and your unconditional love for all. Not a moment is passing without thinking of you.
In grief:-
Uma Narayan & family
Srinivas Sitaram & family

SAD DEMISE

P.T. Antony
Retired B.E.L Employee
23-05-1938 - 07-11-2025
Funeral service on 9th November 2025 at 2:00pm at home. 2:45pm at church - St. Joseph's Church, Babusahibpalaya
4:00pm - Burial at Kalpalli Catholic Cemetery, Gate No: 2

JUMPING GENIUS

Researchers discover new spider species in C'magaluru village

VIJAYAKUMAR S K
CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS

Chikkamagaluru, dhns: A team of biodiversity researchers in the Western Ghats has discovered a new species of spiders belonging to pilia, a genus of jumping spiders, at Madhugundi village in Mudigere taluk of the district.

The discovery has been published in Zootaxa, an international journal dedicated to researches in biodiversity.

The last time a species of spiders belonging to pilia genus was discovered was about 123 years ago (1902) in Kerala. To give credit to the place where it was found, researchers have named it 'Pilia malenadu'.

Ajith Padiyar, a postgraduate in wildlife management and a naturalist working at a resort in Madhugundi, was the first to observe this new species. A total of 24 spiders were recorded—17 males, three females and four juveniles. Last year in the same area, Padiyar had identified the rare saffron Reedtail damselfly.

"Unlike common spiders seen in houses and gardens, Pilia species are distinct. This genus is being recorded again after more than a century, and notably, the female has been identified for the first time," said Padiyar.

What adds to the curiosity is that these spiders have been found only on two rare plant species—Memecylon umbellatum and Memecylon malabaricum. They are usually seen hiding between leaves of these plants, Padiyar said.

Pilia spider

Experts in arachnology—John T D, Caleb, Dr A P C Abhijith and IT professional Jitesh Pai—are co-authors of the research paper, Padiyar said.

"Our study reveals that these spiders live only in specific habitats. If these habitats are not protected, the species could face extinction. In nature, they act as insect regulators. Their presence underscores the need for conservation of the Western Ghats," said Padiyar. He said Madhugundi had witnessed devastating floods in 2019, which caused landslides.

"The discovery of a new spider species in such an area indicates that the ecosystem is recovering and remains ecologically healthy," he said.

Isro collects Chandrayaan-2 data for deeper study of lunar poles

BENGALURU PTI: Isro on Saturday said it has collected advanced data from the Chandrayaan-2 lunar orbiter to gain a deeper understanding of the Moon's polar regions, including parameters describing the physical and dielectric properties of its surface.

This is India's major value addition towards future global exploration of the Moon, it said.

According to an Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) statement, the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter has been in orbit around the Moon since 2019 and has been providing high-quality data.

One of the payloads, the Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR), is the first instrument that has mapped the Moon using the L-band in full-polarimetric mode and in the highest resolution (25m/pixel).

This advanced radar mode sends and receives signals in both vertical and horizontal directions, making it ideal for studying surface properties, it said.

The space agency said that since its launch, about 1,400 radar datasets have been collected and processed to create polarimetric mosaics of the north and south polar regions (80 to 90 degrees latitude) of the Moon.

"Using the datasets, scientists from the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, have developed advanced data products on the potential presence of water-ice, surface roughness, as well as an important electrical property, namely the dielectric constant, which describes features like density and porosity of the Moon's surface," it said.

The algorithm for analysing the full-polarimetric data has been developed, and the data products have been generated indigenously by Isro, the space agency said.

Isro said these advanced data products are significant in view of gathering first-order information about the Moon's polar regions.

COP30: India tells rich nations to speed up emission cuts

Prime Minister unlikely to attend 2-week-long summit

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

On the eve of the UN climate summit, India has asked rich nations to "accelerate emission reduction" in order to reach "net zero sooner than what they had declared", noting that global ambition to clean up the earth remains inadequate even a decade after the Paris Agreement.

"While developing countries continue to take decisive climate action, developed countries that have disproportionately appropriated the global carbon budget must accelerate emission reductions," Dinesh Bhatia, Indian Ambassador to Brazil said on Saturday at a Leader's Summit at Belem where the 30th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) will take off on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the two-week-long summit, but Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav will join the negotiations at the high-level segment towards the end.

Addressing a pre-COP summit, Bhatia said 10 years after the Paris Agreement that set the ground rules on emission cuts, global ambition remained inadequate and many nations' Nationally Determined Contributions - voluntary emission cuts – fell short.

USA – the world's largest polluter – came out of the Paris Agreement for the second time in January 2025 after President Donald Trump took over.

"Given the rapid depletion of the meagre remaining carbon budget, developed countries must reach net zero much sooner than they have declared and invest substantially in reaching net-negative emissions," the Ambassador said.

India's stand

- Many nations' voluntary emission cuts inadequate
- Developed countries must invest substantially in reaching net-negative emissions
- Focus on adaptation would be as important as mitigation
- For developing nations like India, access to affordable finance, tech, capacity building is vital

Net Zero means adding no greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by reducing the emission and absorbing the GHGs released from the industry, transportation, electricity and agriculture sectors in massive carbon sinks like oceans and forests.

Australia, the UK and European Union have pledged to achieve net-zero by 2050, but the USA, the world's biggest pollution, has no such deadline.

India declared that it would achieve net-zero by 2070 while China and Saudi Arabia put a deadline of 2060.

With adaptation – successfully adjusting to warmer climate caused by global warming - being a key issue at COP30, Bhatia said focus on adaptation would be as important as mitigation (emission cuts) in order to address climate risks and vulnerabilities at the local level and more so in developing countries.

At Belem, the nations are to finalise a set of 100 indicators to track progress on adaptation besides revisiting the need to enhance adaptation finance.

Earlier this year, a block of like-minded developing countries demanded that climate finance from developed countries must be "additional, predictable and transparent" rather than essentially renaming existing grants and aid programmes.

"For developing nations like India, access to affordable finance, technology and capacity building is vital to implement ambitious NDCs. Equitable, predictable and concessional finance remain the cornerstone for achieving global climate goals," the Ambassador said.

Bhatia said India would be joining Brazil's proposal of creating the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) corpus as an observer. The South American nation has proposed to make a $125 billion fund with contributions from all sources to reward tropical countries to retain and expand their forest cover.

TMC protests Karnataka MP's 'Jana Gana Mana' comment

Saffron party tries to make political moolah from Vande Mataram gala

KOLKATA, DHNS

The Trinamool Congress staged protests in Kolkata on Saturday, accusing the BJP of insulting Nobel-laureate Rabindranath Tagore, even as the saffron party in West Bengal moved to cash in on the Central government's grand celebration of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, penned by another literary icon from the state, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

The ruling TMC protested in front of Jorasanko Thakurbari — Tagore's birthplace and ancestral residence — against a comment by the BJP's Lok Sabha member Visheshwar Hegde Kageri, who represents Karnataka's Uttar Kannada constituency.

Kageri recently said Vande Mataram should have been the national anthem instead of Jana Gana Mana, which he said Tagore composed to welcome officials of the British Raj. He was speaking at an event held at Honnavar in Uttar Kannada on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram.

"The BJP has not yet acted against its Lok Sabha member for insulting Jana Gana Mana and Rabindranath Tagore. Does it mean that the BJP supports what he said? Isn't it seditious?" asked Shashi Panja, a senior TMC leader and a minister in the state Cabinet, after the party's protest rally on Saturday.

She alleged that the BJP had always insulted West Bengal and its icons like Tagore or educator and social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

With the West Bengal Assembly elections just a few months away, the TMC quickly moved to weaponise Kageri's remarks to counter the saffron party's bid to reap the political dividends from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government's grandiose celebration of Vande Mataram, which Chattopadhyay penned in 1875.

With Modi inaugurating the year-long celebration of the national song in New Delhi on Friday, Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya, the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly Suvendu Adhikari, and other leaders of the saffron party, spearheaded the commemorative events in West Bengal.

Adhikari, who had quit the TMC and joined the BJP in 2020, slammed his former party for not being "patriotic". He criticised the TMC government for a West Bengal Board of Secondary Education notification that made singing of Tagore's "Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol (Bengal's Land, Bengal's Water)" — the official song of the state — mandatory at morning assemblies in state government-supported schools.

Sharad Pawar backs probe, distances from family in land row

Deal related to govt-reserve land has been scrapped

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Breaking his silence over the Pune land-grabbing incident, NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar on Saturday said that it is proper that the entire issue is probed and facts are presented before the public.

Though the deal, involving the government-reserved land in the Mundhwa area adjacent to Pune's Koregaon Park, has been scrapped, Sharad's nephew and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar seems to be in trouble. Ajit has also distanced himself from his son Parth Pawar's deal.

Talking to reporters in Akola, Sharad said that Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has described the incident as serious. "The Chief Minister has said publicly that the matter is serious. So he should conduct a probe and put the facts before society."

Besides, Sharad also differed from NCP (SP) working president and his daughter, Supriya Sule, who had come out in defence of Parth, saying that she had full faith in him. "What Supriya said is her individual view," he said, adding that, "For me, family and policies are different."

On being asked as to why FIR has not been lodged against Parth, he said: "Only Fadnavis can tell this."

When asked if his nephew Ajit is being targeted politically by allies in the BJP-led MahaYuti, Sharad said, "I wouldn't know that".

Action as per law: CM

Meanwhile, Fadnavis said on Saturday that action involving a company linked to Parth Pawar is being taken as per the law and there is no question of saving anybody.

SHARAD PAWAR
NCP (SP) supremo

"The Chief Minister has said publicly that the matter is serious. So he should conduct a probe and put the facts before society.

"FIRs have been filed against signatories and vendors, and those found guilty in the probe will be booked. Action is being taken as per the law," Fadnavis said in Gadchiroli.

The deal relates to Survey No 88 in Mouje Mundhwa - around 40 acres of Mahar Watan land, denoting hereditary landholding to the Mahar (Scheduled Caste) community, made up of 272 smaller plots, which was illegally was sold to Amadea Enterprises LLP, represented by Parth Pawar and Digvijay Patil, for Rs 300 crore, and the stamp duty on it was waived.

The market value of the land has been pegged at Rs 1,800 crore.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has questioned why Parth Pawar, who reportedly owns a 99% stake in the company, was not named in the FIR, while Patil was booked.

"Those who don't even understand what a First Information Report is are making baseless allegations," Fadnavis said. "When an FIR is registered, it is filed against the express parties involved. In this case, the FIR has been filed against the company and its authorised signatories."

He added that the inquiry would be completed within a month. "The entire investigation will identify all those involved, and further action will be taken based on the findings," Fadnavis said.

Meanwhile, Ajit Pawar on Saturday said the sale deed of government land should not have been executed, and added that the truth will come out in the inquiry ordered by the state government.

"(Irrespective of) Whoever is involved, proper investigation must be conducted in the Mundhwa land deal. The inquiry has begun and all information will soon come out," Ajit Pawar said in Pune.

"The actual transaction did not take place. The sale deed should not have been executed. I do not know how it was done. Whoever is involved, a proper investigation must be conducted. Allegations were made against me, but nothing was proven though I was severely slandered. Now, after the Chief Minister ordered an inquiry, two FIRs have been registered. The registrar's office is conducting an investigation," he added.

No due diligence or legal scrutiny had been conducted before executing the sale agreement, Pawar admitted.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal and North Interior Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over South Interior Karnataka
Forecast Nov 09: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	29.2	18.8	00
Bidar	28.6	18	00
Vijayapura	30	15.8	00
Dharwad	28.6	18.5	0.8
Haveri	29.2	20.8	00
Kalaburagi	32.5	19.2	00
Raichur	31	17.4	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.5	21.5	0.8
Karwar	32.2	24.7	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.7	24.5	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	28.8	19.3	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.5	18.3	00
Davangere	30.5	19.5	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	30	20.2	02
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.8	16.4	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	28.6	11	00
Kolkata	31.6	21.5	00
Mumbai	32.5	21.2	00
Chennai	32.2	25.5	00
Pune	31.2	15.9	00
Hyderabad	30.7	16.9	00
Th'puram	33.3	24.6	00

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board
#49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru-01
Ph: 080-2558 6520 / 2558 9112 Fax: 080-2588 6321
e-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in | Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB 139 INFRA EPH 2025/3172 Date:07.11.2025

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Maritime Board, Port & Fisheries Division has proposed for the development of Dedicated Jetty for Lakshadweep with Allied Infrastructure Facilities for Cargo handling facility with an annual capacity of 1.0 milion metric tons and 1.23 lakh cubic meters of dredging facilities at Old Mangalore Port located in Mangalore town, Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District. The Project requires obtaining Environmental Clearance as per EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, and it is required to conduct Environmental Public Hearing process. Accordingly, the Project Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) issued by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka dated 24.07.2025 vide File No. SEIAA 17 IND 2025 & proposal No. SIA/KA/INFRA1/517914/2025. As per project proponent request letter No. EE:P&F:DVN:Udupi: AE: Other: 2025-26/682 dated: 01.09.2025 & RO -Mangaluru letter No. PCB/RO(MNG)PH/2025-26/1324, dated: 10.10.2025, the Environmental Public hearing is scheduled by the Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada District on **10th December 2025 Wednesday at 11.00 AM.** The Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board as per details given below;

The details of the project are as follows:

1	**Name of the Company & Address:** Executive Engineer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Port & Fisheries Division 'Shamil Hall' 2nd floor, Ambalapady, Udupi-576103.
2	**Proposed location of the project:** Development of Dedicated Jetty for Lakshadweep with Allied Infrastructure Facilities for Cargo handling facility with an annual capacity of 1.0 milion metric tons and 1.23 lakh cubic meters of dredging facilities at Old Mangalore Port located in Mangalore town, Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District.
3	**Details of activity:** Karnataka Maritime Board, Port & Fisheries Division has proposed for the development Dedicated Jetty for Lakshadweep with Allied Infrastructure Facilities for Cargo handling facility with an annual capacity of 1.0 milion metric tons and 1.23 lakh cubic meters of dredging facilities at Old Mangalore Port located in Mangalore town, Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District.
4	**Date, time and venue of Public hearing.:** Date: 10.12.2025 (Wednesday) Time: 11.00 AM Place: South Wharf Godown A Shed, Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada District.
5	**Capital Investment:** Rs.65 Cr. (Project cost)
6	**Places of availability of project documents kept open for public: 1.** Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Mangaluru Dakshina Kannada District. **2.** Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Mangaluru Dakshina Kannada District. **3.** District Industries Centre, Yeyyadi Mangaluru Dakshina Kannada District. **4.** Office of Tahasildar, Mangaluru Dakshina Kannada District. **5.** Office of Mangaluru City Corporation, Lalbagh, Dakshina Kannada. **6.** Office of the Senior Environmental Officer- Mangaluru, Plot No.23 & 24, 1st Floor 4th Cross, Near ESI Hospital, Parisara Bhavana, Baikampady Industrial Area, Mangaluru-575011. **7.** Office of the Regional Office, Mangaluru, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, "Parisara Bhavana" 10B, Baikampady Industrial Area, Mangaluru-575011. **8.** Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. **9.** State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (SEIAA), 4th Gate, 7th Floor, Forest Ecology and Environmental Department, MS Building, Bengaluru -560 001. **10.** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee **(Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada District).** Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details, please visit our website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.22/2025-26, Dated: 05.11.2025

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one & two cover system through KPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Chikmagaluru District works as per KW-1&3 maximum tender amount is Rs.80.58 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.20 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 13-11-2025 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/743/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08262–220936 E-Mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :24/2025–26 1939 ದಿನಾಂಕ :06.11.2025

–:ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :–

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರುರವರು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ. ಕಳಸ, ಕೊಪ್ಪ ಮತ್ತು ತರೀಕರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.99.46 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.8.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ **Standard Tender Document KW-1,2 & 3** ರಂತೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.11.2025 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.11.2025** ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:24.11.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:26.11.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು **kppp.karnataka.gov.in website** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Chief Engineer Ele., Bangalore Rural Area Zone, BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tender for the following through KPP portal in two cover system.

Sl. No.	Enquiry No & Date	Particulars	Approx Amount put to tender (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	CEE/BRAZ/SEE(O)/ AEE-1/ Enq No. ET 75/2025-26 dtd 10-11-2025	**Providing 56 numbers of temporary manpower services** (4 Nos supervisor and 52 Nos Electricians) and 04 Nos of Vehicle with driver (24x7) to Industrial area Service stations in **Chandapura division,** BESCOM for a period of **one year** i.e from the date of 'Contract Award' through an agency.	1,68,21,591/-	2,52,324/-
2	CEE/BRAZ/SEE(O)/ AEE-1/ Enq No. ET 76/2025-26 dtd 10-11-2025	**Providing 50 numbers of temporary manpower services** (4 Nos supervisor and 46 Nos Electricians) and 04 Nos of Vehicle with driver (24x7) to Industrial area Service stations in **Hosakote division,** BESCOM for a period of **one year** i.e from the date of 'Contract Award' through an agency.	1,52,32,581/-	2,28,489/-
3	CEE/BRAZ/SEE(O)/ AEE-1/ Enq No. ET 77/2025-26 dtd 10-11-2025	**Providing 33 numbers of temporary manpower services** (3 Nos supervisor and 30 Nos Electricians) and 03 Nos of Vehicle with driver (24x7) to Industrial area Service stations in **Nelamangala division,** BESCOM for a period of **one year** i.e from the date of 'Contract Award' through an agency.	1,02,32,679/-	2,00,000/-

Time Schedule: a) Bid document available on KPPP portal: **12-11-2025 after 11 hrs IST, b)** Pre bid meeting : **19-11-2025 @ 11 hrs, IST, c)** Last date for submission of queries: **20-11-2025 upto 17 hrs, IST, d)** Last date for submission of bid document: **26-11-2025 upto 17:00 hrs, IST, e)** Date and time of opening technical bid: **27-11-2025 at 17:10 hrs, IST.**

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP portal from the website kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in. on or after 12-11-2025. Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal.

All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact help desk 080-8046010000, 080-806894877 Or E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy,
BRAZ, BESCOM, No. 1-4, 5th Floor,
Rajajinagar IT Park, Bangalore-560 010.

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

COSMETIC MOVE? Govt on defensive after 6 kids infected, takes quick measures

HIV from transfusion: Heat on Jharkhand blood banks

SUDHIR KUMAR MISHRA

The public healthcare system in Jharkhand is in the eye of a storm after recent reports of six children getting infected with HIV following transfusion of contaminated blood. The victims, aged between six and 10 years, are thalassemia patients who need blood transfusions every fortnight.

While five cases were reported from Chaibasa, one was traced to Koderma. All received blood from banks run by the Sadar Hospital of their respective districts. The development has shed light on the state's Health Department's inadequate, inefficient, and unscientific management of blood banks.

For example, the blood bank run by the Red Cross Society in Ranchi has been running without a valid licence for the past 18 years. Meanwhile, a chaotic situation prevails in Pakur following the closure of the blood bank there, and the Gumla district's Sadar Hospital has no blood bank at all! Incidentally, the licences of a majority of blood banks in the state expired long ago. Though many applied for renewal, the matter remained pending at various levels.

Aggravating the situation, the blood banks' laboratories relied mainly on rapid-test kits, whose results are often inaccurate. Other standard procedures for testing blood samples — ELISA, chemiluminescence, etc — were overlooked. Either the equipment was not functional due to technical faults, or there was a lack of experts to operate it.

Five cases of HIV infection from blood transfusion were reported from Sadar Hospital in Chaibasa. SOCIAL MEDIA

"During 2021-25, 259 donors gave blood to thalassemia patients in Chaibasa. Our inquiries revealed that the affected patients received blood from 44 donors in the past. Four such donors were found HIV-positive," said Health Minister Irfan Ansari, also a medical doctor, adding that the government would take care of the victims' treatment.

As the issue snowballed into a major political row, Chief Minister Hemant Soren ordered the suspension of the Chaibasa civil surgeon and the medical officer in charge, and the dismissal of lab technicians concerned in Chaibasa and Koderma. He also announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to each victim. As a knee-jerk reaction, the government also shut down 17 blood banks across the state.

"We are doing our best. Our CM is also keeping a vigilant eye. The BJP and its allies are trying to gain political mileage (out of this)," said Ansari, referring to the political backlash.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Ajay Kumar Singh maintained that sample tests with rapid kits had been completely stopped. Only the standard procedures, such as ELISA and chemiluminescence, would continue. Inspections of all blood banks across the state had been completed, he said, adding: "We are also trying to find out whether infected needles were used during blood transfusions. Detailed inquiries may take a little more time."

Meanwhile, six master trainers have been pressed into service for the effective functioning of e-blood cells. Digitalisation of all blood banks and availing of broadband services have caught the attention of officials at the helm of affairs.

A senior official of the Jharkhand State AIDS Control Society maintained that blood banks had been asked to strictly follow standard operating procedure. He added: "Our Society is nowhere involved in the latest controversies. On our part, we have issued necessary guidelines." Meanwhile, public health advocacy groups expressed concern over the lack of blood screening facilities in state-run hospitals.

BJP state president and Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Assembly Babulal Marandi called the incident a "state-sponsored attempt to kill innocent children". He alleged that CM Soren was now trying to shirk his responsibilities by punishing a few erring officials — mainly technicians. "If these children die, who should be held responsible?" he asked.

On November 1, Governor Santosh Gangwar expressed strong reservations over the laxity of the official machinery. He stressed that merely penalising the erring officials wouldn't suffice. Concrete measures should be taken to prevent such incidents from repeating, he said.

Taking suo motu cognisance of a media report that a seven-year-old Chaibasa boy had contracted HIV after receiving infected blood at the Sadar Hospital, a Division Bench of the Jharkhand High Court on October 30 summoned top Health Department officials and asked them to clarify through an affidavit topics like the status of blood donation camps and the demand and availability of blood in various blood banks. They were also asked to formulate and implement guidelines for the prevention and spread of AIDS.

(The writer is a senior Ranchi-based journalist)

J&K: Crackdown on kin, associates of Pak terrorists

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday launched a coordinated crackdown on individuals allegedly linked to Pakistan-based terrorists, surrendered militants, and other anti-national elements across multiple locations in the Valley.

Officials said simultaneous raids were carried out in dozens of locations in south Kashmir's Kulgam district and central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The operation, police sources said, was aimed at dismantling the support networks that continue to sustain militancy through finances, logistics, and digital propaganda.

"During the operation, several relatives and associates of active Pakistan-based militants were booked under relevant provisions of law for their continued involvement in anti-national activities, including providing logistical support, circulating propaganda, and aiding recruitment," a police official said.

Police also seized digital devices and other incriminating materials from several houses, which are now being examined for evidence of coordination with handlers across the border. "Many of those raided were already under surveillance for maintaining contact with active militants or their Pakistani handlers through encrypted platforms," the official said.

The crackdown, part of a broader counter-terrorism strategy, comes amid intelligence inputs suggesting renewed efforts by Pakistan-based outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed to revive their networks inside Jammu and Kashmir through family members and sympathisers of former or slain militants.

A senior police officer said that the operation also targets "white-collar overground workers" — individuals who facilitate the movement of funds, shelter, and recruitment without directly engaging in violence. "We are tightening the noose on the ecosystem that enables terrorism to survive, from social media propagandists to local financiers," he said.

Police have stepped up surveillance across several districts following reports of fresh attempts to push recruits through digital radicalisation and online messaging channels. The latest operation in Kulgam and Ganderbal, sources said, is part of an ongoing intelligence-based campaign to neutralise such hybrid and sleeper networks before they can regroup.

Security personnel conduct a raid on the residence of an operative of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in Anantnag. PTI

PM Modi links rail push to 'developed India' vision

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"Trains like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat and Amrit Bharat are laying the foundation of a new generation of Indian Railways

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the Vande Bharat trains represent a major leap forward in the transformation of Indian Railways and mark a crucial milestone in the journey toward a "developed India".

Speaking after flagging off four new Vande Bharat trains at Varanasi, his Lok Sabha constituency, Modi said that more than 160 Vande Bharat trains are now operating across the country.

"These are not merely rail projects but a national campaign to transform the Indian Railways," Modi said. "Vande Bharat trains are made by Indians, for Indians, and of Indians," he added, noting that even foreign visitors are amazed by the indigenous technology behind them.

The four new Vande Bharat trains flagged off on Saturday are: Banaras–Khajuraho, Lucknow–Saharanpur, Firozpur–Delhi, and Ernakulam–Bengaluru.

Highlighting the role of infrastructure in national progress, Modi said, "Across the developed nations of the world, a major driver of economic growth has been robust infrastructure. Infrastructure is not just about big bridges and highways—whenever such systems are developed, they spark the overall development of the region."

He said that new railway stations, trains, and roads are opening new doors for growth across India, and initiatives like Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat, and Amrit Bharat trains are laying the foundation for a new generation of Indian Railways.

The PM said that the pilgrimages in the country were not only for paying obeisance at the temples but were also a sacred tradition to connect with the soul of India.

Modi also interacted with children aboard the new Banaras–Khajuraho Vande Bharat train, viewing paintings made by them.

Justice, when accessible to all, becomes foundation of social justice: PM

'Ease of justice is key to ease of living, doing business'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said when justice is accessible to all, delivered in a timely manner, and reaches every individual regardless of their social or financial background, that is when it truly becomes the foundation of social justice.

In his inaugural speech in the national conference on "strengthening legal aid delivery mechanisms" and celebration of "Legal Services Day" here, he also said ease of doing business and ease of living were truly possible only when ease of justice was also ensured.

In recent years, several steps have been taken to enhance ease of justice and, going forward, the government would accelerate efforts in this direction, he said, noting that legal aid played a crucial role in ensuring such accessibility.

PM Narendra Modi with CJI BR Gavai during the inauguration of national conference on 'Strengthening Legal Aid Delivery Mechanisms', at the Supreme Court, in New Delhi. PTI

Modi also said legal services authorities acted as a bridge between the judiciary and the common citizen.

Under the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System initiated by the Central government, nearly 8 lakh criminal cases have been resolved in 3 years.

These efforts, he remarked, ensured ease of justice for the poor, the oppressed, the deprived, and the marginalised across the country.

Modi also launched a community mediation training module at the event. He said technology today was emerging as a powerful medium for inclusion and empowerment, and the eCourts project in justice delivery was a remarkable example of this transformation.

"When people understand the law in their own language, it leads to better compliance and reduces litigation; it is equally essential that judgments and legal documents are made available in local languages," said the PM, praising the Supreme Court's move to translate its judgments into 18 languages.

Emphasising the importance of legal awareness, he said a poor individual could not access justice until they were aware of their rights, understood the law, and overcame fear of the system's complexity. He affirmed that enhancing legal awareness among vulnerable groups, women, and the elderly was a priority.

Modi also suggested that if law students were encouraged to engage with the poor and rural communities to explain their legal rights, they would gain direct insight into the pulse of society.

CJI B R Gavai said: "The right of every citizen, and our role as judges, lawyers and officers of the court, is to ensure that the light of justice reaches even the last person standing at the margins of society. Very often, we take pride in the number of merit cases we help resolve, but what truly matters is what it means to those who receive free legal aid."

Two ultras killed in foiled infiltration bid along LoC

SRINAGAR, DHNS: Two unidentified terrorists were killed on Saturday as the army said it foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Keran sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The operation comes amid a rise in infiltration attempts this year following Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7 in response to the April 24 Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 tourists and a local were killed in the Baisaran meadow.

The Chinar Corps of the army said in a post on X that "two terrorists have been neutralised by the security forces in the ongoing operation," adding that a search of the area was underway.

Security officials said infiltration attempts along the LoC have significantly increased since Operation Sindoor. Several groups are believed to have been pushed from across the border before the onset of winter when heavy snowfall seals traditional routes.

India-Australia trade pact talks achieve progress

NEW DELHI, PTI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday reviewed the progress of negotiations for the second tranche of trade agreement with his Australian counterpart Don Farrell, an official statement said.

"Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work constructively towards the early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial CECA (comprehensive economic cooperation agreement)," it said.

The first part of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) entered into force in December 2022.

During the meeting, the Ministers reviewed the progress made under the CECA negotiations and discussed pathways to elevate bilateral trade and economic partnerships.

The discussions covered a wide range of areas including trade in goods, services, investment and cooperation in mutually beneficial, it said.

Kerala CM slams railways over RSS song on board Vande Bharat

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PTI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday condemned the reported act of the Southern Railway making school students sing an RSS song onboard the newly inaugurated Vande Bharat Express from Ernakulam to Bengaluru.

In a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Vijayan said that the reported act by the Southern Railway deserves to be protested.

Visuals on TV channels showed students singing the RSS song onboard the Vande Bharat Express.

The Southern Railway reportedly withdrew the social media post following widespread criticism against it.

Vijayan said that including the song of the RSS, which allegedly constantly spreads anti-religious hatred and communal divisive politics, in the official programme of the government is a violation of constitutional principles.

Pinarayi Vijayan

Using the country's largest public sector undertaking, the railways, by the Sangh Parivar to spread their alleged communal political propaganda, is unacceptable, the CM said.

By sharing on social media the singing of the RSS song on the train by the students with the caption—'a patriotic song'—makes a mockery of the Southern Railway and the Indian national movement, he claimed.

Earlier, Vijayan, in his statement, contended that the Railways, which served as the cornerstone of India's secular nationalism during the freedom struggle, is now supporting the communal agenda of the RSS, which betrayed the freedom struggle.

Speaking along similar lines, the Congress and the UDF opposition led by it also criticised the reported act of the Southern Railway.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, V D Satheesan, said that making students sing the RSS song as part of a government programme was "illegal and undemocratic".

He alleged that the BJP was trying to implement in Kerala the politics of division as seen in north India.

UP student attempts immolation after being denied exam entry

LUCKNOW, DHNS: An undergraduate student allegedly set himself ablaze inside a college campus in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district after being reportedly denied permission to appear in the examination and humiliated in front of others over non-payment of fees.

Local reports said the student, identified as Ujjwal Rana, a resident of the Budhana area in the district, sustained 70% burns and was admitted to a hospital, where his condition was stated to be critical.

In his statement recorded In his statement recorded at the hospital, Ujjwal said he was "humiliated" and "abused" by the principal of the college when he approached him with a request to allow him to sit for the exams.

A video containing his purported statement has since surfaced on social media.

The college principal, however, refuted the allegations and said Ujjwal was neither humiliated nor abused.

Reports said Ujjwal came to the college on Friday, poured some inflammable material on himself, and set himself ablaze inside a classroom.

Other students managed to douse the flames and rushed him to the hospital, where he was battling for life.

The police said an investigation would be conducted into the matter, and that they were collecting CCTV footage. Action would be taken after the investigation, the police said.

Special op against red sandalwood smugglers soon: Pawan Kalyan

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said on Saturday that the state government will launch a special operation within a year to wipe out red-sanders smugglers in the Seshachalam forest range. He warned that this operation would be launched unless illegal transporters of red sandalwood stopped immediately.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan inspects a red sandalwood godown on Saturday.

On Saturday, Pawan Kalyan, who also holds the Forests portfolio, conducted a review meeting at the Tirupati Collectorate with the superintendents of police from five districts, Red Sanders Special Task Force officers, and forest officials to discuss strategies, opportunities, and challenges in curbing smuggling.

"Red sandalwood is a rare forest treasure that grows only in the Seshachalam forests. According to ancient lore, it sprouted from the blood of Lord Sri Venkateswara. It holds deep spiritual and emotional significance for Hindus," he said.

After the meeting, Pawan Kalyan told reporters, "The Central government is determined to eradicate Left-wing extremism through Operation Kagar. We will pursue the end of red-sanders smuggling with the same resolve."

COUNTER

"Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav are hell-bent on turning the Seemanchal region of Bihar into a den of infiltrators... We will detect and identify every illegal immigrant, delete their names from electoral rolls and deport them to their country.

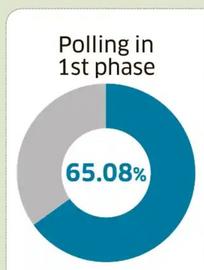
Amit Shah
Union Home Minister

V/S

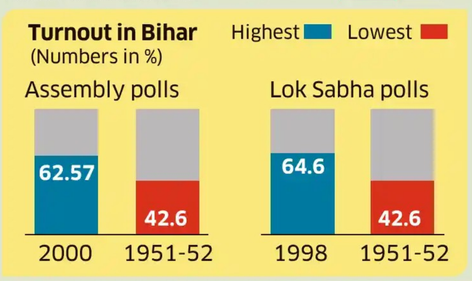
The battle that the I.N.D.I.A bloc and Congress are fighting today is the same battle that Mahatma Gandhi once fought against the British imperialists. Even today, we are fighting for your rights and the truth. Even today, we are fighting against an empire, which is the Modi empire."

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra
Congress leader

HISTORIC POLLING



Highest	
Minapur	77.54%
Bochahan	76.35%
Kurhan	75.63%
Lowest	
Kumhrar	40.17%
Bankipur	41.32%
Digha	42.76%



SOURCE: ECI

Poll diary

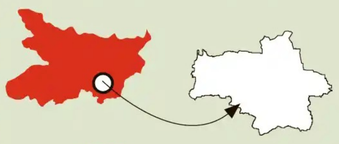
Rahul should've made SC, ST or minority LoP: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should have made someone from the SC, ST or minority communities the leader of opposition of Lok Sabha if he is really concerned about them. Addressing back-to-back rallies in Rohtas and Kaimur districts, Singh dismissed Gandhi's allegation of 'vote chori' as "baseless", and said he should approach the Election Commission if he has a complaint with evidence. "If Rahul Gandhi is really concerned about Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or minority communities, he should have given the post of leader of opposition in Lok Sabha to someone from these communities," Singh said.

Congress chief rubbishes claims of NDA victory

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday rubbished Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah's predictions of the NDA's victory in the Bihar, pointing out that their "400 plus" claim in the Lok Sabha elections was way off the mark. He said that "all was not well" in the BJP-led coalition, as there were doubts that Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president and longest-serving chief minister, would be backed for another term in office. "The PM can say anything. Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, they kept saying 400 paar," said Kharge, pointing to BJP's performance in 2024 general elections.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



ALOK RANJAN JHA	INDRAJEET PRASAD GUPTA
BJP	INDIAN INCLUSIVE PARTY
2020: Won	2020: Did not contest

Traditional manifestos lose their sheen

Strategists say a large chunk of voters are only bothered about their immediate needs. Effective communication is must, as their attention span is low

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

An election manifesto serves as a defining document for a political party, outlining its goals and promises to voters. With time, the manifestos have evolved from conventional statements to policy-specific documents.

The function to release the BJP manifesto in Bihar took less than a minute. The Congress said it concluded in 26 seconds.

NDA functionaries defend the 'quick' release of the manifesto, citing their leaders' campaign engagements during the day and their confidence in the people's belief in the coalition's ability to deliver good governance and development in the state.

Election strategists—both hired professionals and partymen—say times have changed and a large chunk of voters no longer look at the larger picture and are only bothered about their immediate and personal needs. One needs to communicate with them directly, as their attention span is low, they say.

Abbin Theepura, founder of political strategy firm 'P-MARQ', said traditional manifestos no longer attract a large number of voters and as a political communicator, it is a necessity that you need to coin slogans and promises that have a 'recall value'.

"Voters wanted roads and drinking water earlier. Now, it is free WiFi and/or free power. You need to tell them what you want to say in fewer words. So, an innovation came in the form of say guarantees. Parties use several methods to showcase their vision. Manifestoes are a repetition of some of the promises made earlier as well as new ones to woo vote banks," he told *DH*.

The BJP's brief manifesto launch in Bihar, lasting under a minute, highlights a shift toward symbolic releases over detailed presentations. PTI FILE

Amitabh Dubey, a senior Congress strategist who was part of the sub-committee that drafted the I.N.D.I.A bloc's joint manifesto for Bihar, however, gives a premium to manifestos but acknowledges that communicating to individual voter is important.

Congress has prepared individual manifestos for its 61 candidates in Bihar by highlighting 7-8 hyperlocal points besides the joint manifesto.

"But the BJP does not seem to consider it an important document. You could predict UPA's policy trajectory— RTI, MGNREGA, Aadhaar, Food Security Act etc—from its manifesto, but that's not the case with NDA. Demonetisation was not in their manifesto. In 2019, the BJP had nothing in its manifesto on corporate tax cuts, but implemented it four months later. That is the difference between UPA and NDA manifestos," he told *DH*.

With micro-level targeting the norm for electioneering, poll strategists claim that they cannot use the methods of older days when people used to wait for manifestos, which was more of sloganeering. Grabbing the attention of the voter closer to the election is important, they say.

"There is a section that still looks at manifestos, but their numbers are shrinking. Earlier, manifestos were steered by a lot of discussions with people, civil society, etc. We still go through that grind," said Vaibhav Walia, who is part of Congress' Bihar war room and earlier headed the party's national communications war room during the Lok Sabha polls.

He said people now go by the 'overall feel good factor' and not on the larger questions of governance. He also believes 'hidden manifestos' create social and communal unrest and take away attention from manifestos.

EVOLUTION

- Manifesto launches, once marathon events, are now symbolic – speed now defines the message
- Voters prioritise their immediate and personal concerns
- This gave birth to election guarantees, which are specific welfare promises made by political parties during campaigns
- It is an explicit assurance that they will be implemented if the party comes to power.
- People now vote based on the 'overall feel-good factor' rather than larger governance issues

Official suspended after VVPAT slips found on road

SAMASTIPUR/NEW DELHI, PTI/DHNS

An assistant returning officer was suspended on Saturday, and a case was registered against him after a large number of VVPAT slips were found on the roadside in Bihar's Samastipur district, said a statement.

The VVPAT slips were found scattered on the roadside near a college in the Sarairanjan assembly segment of the district.

The Election Commission swung into action after a purported video of it went viral on social media. The statement issued by the Chief Electoral Officer's office said the district magistrate has been directed to visit the spot and inquire into the matter.

"As these are VVPAT slips of a mock poll, the integrity of the polling process remains uncompromised. The contesting candidates have also been informed by the DM. However, the ARO is being suspended for negligence and an FIR is being registered against him," it said.

An investigation has also been started, it added.

Screengrab from a video of VVPATs found on the roadside in Sarairanjan.

RJD seeks security

Meanwhile, the RJD on Saturday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar seeking enhanced security of strongrooms housing Electronic Voting Machines, citing reports of power disruptions, which it said raise concerns about the protocols being followed at these facilities.

In a letter, senior RJD MP Manoj K Jha said the integrity of the electoral process is the cornerstone of our democracy, and public confidence in the sanctity of elections depends entirely on the transparent and foolproof security of EVMs.

"Any lapse, perceived or actual, undermines the faith that citizens place in the democratic process," he said.

He said there should be mandatory 24x7 CCTV surveillance of all entry and exit access points to the strongroom premises, with real-time monitoring and secure storage of footage.

He also said there should be a verification of all existing security protocols to ensure that they align with the Standard Operating Procedures established by the EC for EVM storage and protection.

He said he was writing the letter because of the reports of electricity disruptions at the strongrooms where the EVMs are currently stored. It has raised "serious concerns" about the security protocols being followed at these critical facilities, he said.

"I trust that the EC will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and take all necessary steps to ensure that the highest standards of security are maintained at all EVM storage facilities," he added.

'Practising for drowning in Bihar elections': Modi takes veiled dig at Rahul

PM says 65.09% turnout across 121 Assembly segments gave '65-volt shock' to the Opposition

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

National leaders are leaving no stone unturned in trading barbs ahead of the phase two of Bihar Assembly elections.

Days after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waded into a pond in Begusarai to catch fish with local fishermen, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took a swipe at him, saying, "Some leaders are practising how to sink in the Bihar election."

While diving and swimming along with fishermen at Begusarai, Rahul had accused the NDA government in the state of doing nothing for the Nishads, mostly fishermen and boatmen.

On Saturday, it was Modi's turn to join the issue and attack the Congress leader.

Supporters during a public rally of Union Home Minister Amit Shah amid the ongoing Bihar Assembly elections, in Katihar. PTI

BIHAR VOTES

"There was a time when Bihar had to procure fish from other states, mostly from far-off Andhra Pradesh. But thanks to the policy and initiatives we brought in the Department of Fisheries, Bihar is not only self-sufficient in producing fish today but also exports fish to other states," he said at a rally in Sitamarhi.

"Big people are now visiting Bihar to see the fish here. Some of them are diving into the ponds, while some of them are practising how to sink in the Bihar elections," said the PM.

The Prime Minister also appeared confident of an NDA victory, citing the high voter turnout in the first phase of polling. "You have given a 65-volt shock to the opposition, which is now having sleepless nights," Modi said, referring to the 65.09% turnout recorded across 121 Assembly segments that went to the polls on November 6.

The jibe was aimed at not only Rahul but also his party colleague Kanhaiya Kumar and Vikas-sheel Insaan Party (VIP) president Mukesh Sahani, who is also the deputy chief-ministerial face of the Mahagatbandhan.

Incidentally, all three had dived into the pond and caught fish with the local fishermen.

Rahul's impromptu move had its own political significance, as several important rivers, including the Ganga, Bagmati, Kosi, Gandak, and Burhi Gandak, flow through Bihar.

The Nishad community — which is comprised of either fishermen or boatmen and forms 3% of the state's population—is reportedly elated over Rahul's move.

"Rahul Gandhi has put us on the international map by swimming and catching fish with us. This move will fetch us rich political dividends," said Sahani, who claims to be the self-styled leader of the Nishads.

Ensure NDA's victory for a stronger Bihar: Nara Lokesh

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Andhra IT minister Nara Lokesh said India's progress is possible only when every state grows stronger.

As part of his poll campaign in Patna, Lokesh on Saturday interacted with representatives of the Bihar Industries Association and Bihar Chamber of Commerce.

"The people of India chose the right leader at the right time as their prime minister. Because of that decision, the country has witnessed unprecedented development over the past decade. Bihar, too, has seen a remarkable transformation. Development is possible only under an efficient, corruption-free government that ensures safety, law and order, and women's security. Andhra Pradesh and Bihar share similarities in maintaining healthy relations with the Centre," he said.

He also said, "This is my first visit to Bihar, not as a minister from Andhra Pradesh but as an Indian citizen. I have great faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. I came here to appeal to the people of Bihar to ensure a victory for the NDA government. The people of Andhra Pradesh re-elected the NDA with a 94% strike rate, leading to rapid growth in our state. I wish to see the same success here in Bihar."

CLASH OF CLANS

3 'Aga' candidates lock horns in Budgam bypoll

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The Budgam Assembly by-election in central Kashmir, scheduled for November 11, has turned into a fierce and deeply personal contest — not just between political parties, but within one of the Valley's most influential Shia families.

Three heavyweight clerics, each bearing the title "Aga" and hailing from prominent religious lineages, are pitted against one another, making this one of the most intriguing political battles in Kashmir's history.

The bypoll was necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacated the Budgam seat, opting to retain Ganderbal — the constituency long considered his family's bastion — following the 2024 Assembly elections. The National Conference (NC) had won Budgam comfortably last year, with Omar securing over 54% of the votes.

However, his departure has reopened old rivalries and exposed sharp divisions within the Shia clerical class that has dominated Budgam's social and political landscape for decades.

This time, the contest is three-cornered — and intensely personal. The NC has fielded Aga Syed Mehmood, a seasoned cleric-politician who enjoys the party's organisational backing and a legacy of association with the Aga family.

The PDP's candidate, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, represents the rival faction of the same extended family and is banking on anti-NC sentiment among younger voters.

The BJP, meanwhile, has thrown its weight behind Aga Syed Mohsin, in what is widely seen as a symbolic bid to penetrate a Valley constituency through a candidate with local religious credibility.

Budgam, which has one of the largest concentrations of Shia

PDP candidate Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi represents the rival faction of the extended family.

Muslims in Kashmir, has long been considered a political stronghold of the Aga family. Historically, its clerics have balanced religious influence with political ambition. But this bypoll has fractured that unity, with each Aga claiming to be the true representative of the Shia community's political aspirations.

"You will have two MLAs. It is a buy-one-get-one-free offer. The only candidate (Aga Mehmood) who has the backing of the cabinet and the chief minister

- Omar Abdullah

Adding another layer of complexity, NC leader and MP Aga Ruhullah, himself an influential Shia figure with considerable sway in Budgam, has decided not to campaign for his party's candidate. He has left it to the people to make their own decision. Ruhullah has been at odds with the NC leadership over several issues, including the fight for the restoration of Article 370 and what he calls the "rationalization of reservation policy."

His absence from the campaign could dent NC's support among a section of Shia voters who view him as their most credible voice.

Political analysts say the fight has quickly turned personal and emotional. "This is no longer just NC versus PDP versus BJP," said a political observer in Srinagar. "It's about leadership and legitimacy within the Shia clerical hierarchy. Each Aga is defending his turf, his following, and his family's prestige."

While NC enters the contest as the favourite, given its 2024 performance, the Sunni Muslim population's vote, which is over 70% could make the outcome unpredictable. The PDP hopes to consolidate disenchanted NC supporters and younger Shia voters seeking change.

The BJP, even if not in contention to win, aims to expand its presence in central Kashmir.

Winter Session of Parliament from December 1 to 19

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Winter session of Parliament will be held from December 1 to 19, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju announced on Saturday.

"The Hon'ble President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu ji has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the Winter Session of Parliament from 1st December 2025 to 19th December, 2025 (subject to exigencies of Parliamentary business)," he posted on X while announcing the dates.

Soon after the announcement of the session dates, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh hit out at the government, and said, this is 'unusually delayed and truncated' and will be just 15 sessions. "What is the message being conveyed? Clearly, the government has no business to transact, no Bills to get passed, and no debates to be allowed."

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien alleged that the government has "Parliament-Ophobia", describing it as a fear of facing the Parliament.

PM Narendra Modi and team continue to suffer from the acute condition called Parliament-ophobia, a morbid fear of facing Parliament, he said in a post on X.

Of the 15 sittings, three are earmarked for private members' business while the rest will be for government business. The Opposition is likely to raise the issue of Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

PROGRESSIVE WAVE He'll face pressure from both Democrats and the White House

Mamdani's win is a moment of reckoning for Democrats

UMA PURUSHOTHAMAN

Thirty-four-year-old Zohran Mamdani is the man of the moment in American politics. With his victory in New York's mayoral race, the charismatic Democratic Socialist becomes the first Muslim and the first Indian-origin mayor-elect of the US' biggest city — both identities he proudly embraces. But how did Mamdani triumph in the age of Trump?

Mamdani ran a carefully planned campaign. Soon after Trump's presidential victory, while serving as a New York Assemblyman, he went out on the streets asking people why they voted for Trump. He realised that the economy and affordability were the dominant concerns among New Yorkers. In a city where one in four residents lives in poverty while one in twenty-four is a millionaire, Mamdani tapped into the growing frustration over inequality and the rising cost of living.

He framed the election as a contest between working-class New Yorkers and billionaires and landlords. His campaign promised to make the city more affordable and safer for the middle and working classes. His pledges included freezing rent for four years on New York's one million rent-stabilised apartments, creating a network of city-owned grocery stores, making public buses free and faster, lowering childcare costs, establishing a Department of Community Safety, and increasing the minimum wage from $16.50 to $30 per hour by 2030.

To fund these initiatives, he plans to raise the corporate tax rate from 7.25% to 11.5% and introduce a flat 2% tax on residents earning over $1 million annually. His multicultural campaign, powered by social media and youthful energy, resonated strongly with younger voters who found him authentic and relatable. Over 90,000 volunteers participated in door-to-door campaigns for free, and he broke fundraising records with small donations, reminiscent of Bernie Sanders' campaign. His brand of left-wing populism worked—New York witnessed its highest mayoral voter turnout in fifty years.

Yet his victory was anything but easy. Mamdani faced significant challenges: he is an immigrant in a time of deportations, a Muslim in an era of polarisation, and a critic of Israel in a city where about ten percent of residents are Jewish. Billionaires poured millions into his opponents' campaigns, he was labelled inexperienced, and received little institutional backing from his party—save support from Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Still, his youth, eloquence, and social media skills gave him an edge in a city that leans strongly Democratic.

Mamdani's win has triggered introspection within the Democratic Party: will it move further left or stay moderate under establishment control? Mamdani himself has said this is the core battle for the party's future. Elsewhere, Democrats won gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia and passed Proposition 50 in California. Both new governors are moderates who, like Mamdani, focussed on cost-of-living issues. However, these are traditionally blue-leaning states, even though Virginia's governorship had been in Republican hands.

New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani speaks during a press conference in Queens. AFP FILE

Trump's reaction to these Democratic victories was that they succeeded only because his name was not on the ballot. Yet polls show his approval ratings are declining, with a net approval of -18%. His popularity among key groups such as Latinos has also slipped.

This trend gives Democrats a modest advantage heading into the mid-term polls in November, provided they can mobilise voters and focus on everyday economic concerns. Mamdani has demonstrated how this can be done. The question is whether the Democrats can bridge their progressive and moderate wings in time. While Mamdani's rise offers Trump fresh rhetorical ammunition about a radical Democratic shift, it may not resonate if Trump cannot address inflation effectively.

In India, Mamdani's election was followed keenly—not only for his Indian roots but also because of past comments critical of India, which drew criticism from several Indian-American groups. The lesson for India is clear: the diaspora cannot be treated as a monolith that will support New Delhi unquestioningly.

Mamdani might have won the election, but he faces huge challenges, not the least of which is President Donald Trump. Trump has made his disdain for Mamdani very clear, calling him a communist. He also threatened to withhold federal funds. Mamdani has not shied away from a confrontation with Trump, as is evident from his victory speech where he told Trump to "turn the volume up!". Trump responded on social media: "...AND SO IT BEGINS!"

It will be interesting to see if Trump follows through on his threats and what Mamdani will do then. The other challenge is whether he can fulfil his promises, with many economists pointing out that implementing them might not make economic sense and would cost much more than he envisages. Moreover, he will have to get the support of the Democratic establishment, which still seems to be wary of embracing him fully. For instance, New York Governor Kathy Hochul said she will not support his plans to tax the wealthy. Moreover, there are limits to his power. Finally, Mamdani has had little administrative experience, and it remains to be seen whether he can make the transition from talker to doer successfully. If he does, he will be able to change America's political landscape.

(The writer teaches at the Centre for the Study of the Americas, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Over 300 volunteers form a giant human banner of the African continent ahead of the UN Tax Convention talks in Nairobi on Saturday. They are calling on governments to tax the super-rich to fund climate finance. AFP

Tornado devastates Brazilian town; 6 killed, hundreds injured

▸ A tornado killed at least six people and injured more than 400 as it destroyed most of a town in southern Brazil, AFP reports from Brasília.

The twister on Friday overturned cars and damaged homes in Rio Bonito do Iguacu, in Parana state, the local weather service reported. It killed six people and injured 432, the Parana state government said. Two others are missing but this number could rise, it said. Winds in Rio Bonito do Iguacu, population 14,000, reached between 180 and 250 kilometers per hour (110 and 155 miles per hour), Parana's environmental technology and monitoring agency said. Civil Defense officials said 80 percent of the town is now destroyed. Images on social media show homes razed by the violent weather. "It is a war scene," Fernando Schunig, head of the Parana Civil Defense agency, told the news outlet G1. He said the likelihood of more fatalities is high because the twister hit right in the center of the town. "When these events hit an urban area, the damage is major. It is very lethal," Schunig said. The governor of Parana, Ratinho Junior, said on X that "security forces are on alert, mobilized and monitoring the cities affected by the severe storms."

India AI summit curtain-raiser in US

▸ With India set to host a crucial AI summit next year, a special curtain-raiser event focusing on the summit's three pillars, people, planet and progress, was organised in Seattle, covering themes such as AI in agri-tech and India's digital infrastructure, PTI reports from Seattle.

The pre-event curtain-raiser was hosted by the Consulate General of India in Seattle on Friday. It focused on the three pillars of India's AI Impact Summit: People, Planet and Progress, the Consulate said. The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 will be held February 19-20 in New Delhi, the first global-scale AI summit hosted in the Global South. It will bring together governments, industry, academia and startups from global capitals to translate AI's potential into tangible outcomes for People, Planet, and Progress and reaffirm India's vision of "AI for All", the release said.

A dolphin nicknamed 'Mimmo' swims as people on a boat take pictures in the San Marco Basin, amid growing concerns about the impact of tourism on marine life, in Venice, Italy, on Saturday. REUTERS

Pak creates new defence chief post

▸ Pakistan on Saturday brought in a Constitutional amendment to create a new post of chief of defence forces to ensure greater coordination and unified command among the three services, PTI reports from Islamabad.

The 27th Constitutional Amendment bill presented in parliament proposes changes to Article 243 of the Constitution, which deals with the armed forces among other issues. Under the amendment bill, the President will appoint the Army Chief and the Chief of Defence Force on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Chief of Army Staff, who will also be the Chief of Defence Forces, will appoint the head of the National Strategic Command in consultation with the Prime Minister. The head of the National Strategic Command will be from the Pakistan Army, it adds. The government will be able to promote individuals from the armed forces to the ranks of Field Marshal, Marshal of the Air Force and Admiral of the Fleet. The rank and privileges of Field Marshal will be for life, meaning that Field Marshals will remain Field Marshals for life. The bill says that the post of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee will expire on November 27, 2025.

British spy intercepts linked India to Nijjar killing: Documentary

UK handed over intel to Canada on Khalistani killing

LONDON, PTI

It was with the help of British spy call intercepts that Canadian authorities allegedly drew links between India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, a new documentary released this week has claimed.

Inside the Deaths that Rocked India's Relations with the West by Bloomberg Originals reports that a British intelligence agency — believed to be the UK's Government Communications Headquarters, often referred to as the country's listening post — intercepted calls that appeared to discuss three targets.

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names mentioned in the intelligence passed on to Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence-sharing agreement between the UK, US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. In late July 2023, there was reportedly a "breakthrough" in the Nijjar murder investigation when the UK obtained "relevant information", according to the video documentary.

The British intelligence was said to have been shared only under strict conditions — hand-delivered to Ottawa, kept off electronic systems, and accessible only to a handful of Canadian officials pre-approved by London.

"The file was a summary of conversations intercepted by a British intelligence agency between individuals who analysts believe were working on behalf of the Indian government," the documentary claims.

In the wake of the documentary, Sikh Federation UK said it had written to Security Minister Dan Jarvis demanding to know why the British government possessed intelligence from July 2023 that it had not shared or referred to "when specifically asked by MPs representing the Sikh community."

No US officials to attend G20 in South Africa: Trump

WASHINGTON, AFP

President Donald Trump said no US officials would attend the G20 summit in South Africa, reviving debunked claims of white Afrikaners being systematically "killed and slaughtered" in the country.

Trump had announced in September that Vice President JD Vance would travel to the meeting later this month instead of him, but has now said that US representatives will skip it entirely.

"It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa," Trump said on his Truth Social network.

"No U.S. Government Official will attend as long as these Human Rights abuses continue."

Trump said that Afrikaners -- descendants of the first European settlers of South Africa -- "are being killed and slaughtered, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated."

He added that he looked forward to hosting the 2026 G20 summit in the United States -- which the billionaire US president will controversially hold at his own golf resort in Miami, Florida. The South African foreign ministry called Trump's comments "regrettable" and said it was looking forward to hosting a "successful" summit set for November 22-23.

"The characterisation of Afrikaners as an exclusively white group is ahistorical. Furthermore, the claim that this community faces persecution is not substantiated by fact," it said in a statement.

Pretoria chose "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" as the theme for its G20 presidency but has faced some resistance, including from Washington.

Russia begins work on nuclear test proposal

MOSCOW, REUTERS: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday that work is under way on President Vladimir Putin's order to prepare proposals for a possible Russian nuclear test.

According to TASS agency, Lavrov said: "Regarding President Vladimir Putin's instruction at the Security Council meeting on November 5, it has been accepted for implementation and is being worked on. The public will be informed of the results."

Nobel prize-winning DNA pioneer James Watson dies at 97

NEW YORK, AFP: James Watson — the Nobel laureate co-credited with discovering DNA's double-helix structure, but whose reputation was later tainted by repeated racist remarks — has died aged 97.

The American biologist passed away on Thursday in hospice care on Long Island, New York, said the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where he spent much of his career.

Watson remains one of the 20th century's most storied scientists for his 1953 discovery of the double helix, made in partnership with Francis Crick. Along with Crick and Maurice Wilkins, Watson shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for their groundbreaking work, which opened the door to understanding the genetic code and protein synthesis.

James Watson

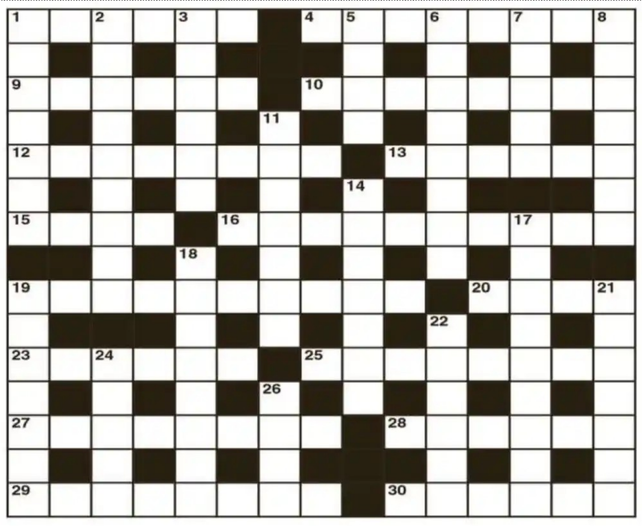
That discovery ushered in a new era of modern biology, paving the way for revolutionary technologies in medicine, forensics, and genetics — from criminal DNA testing to genetically engineered crops.

Watson was only 25 when he joined one of science's greatest breakthroughs. He later carried out pioneering work in cancer research and the mapping of the human genome. His 1968 memoir *The Double Helix* became a best-seller. But personally, Watson was known as at best cantankerous and outspoken, and at worst, mean and bigoted.

He faced little consequence for his views until 2007, when he told a newspaper he was "inherently gloomy about the prospect of Africa" because "all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours — whereas all the testing says not really."

He later apologised but was swiftly removed as the laboratory's chancellor, and his public image never recovered.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2653 ◆



ACROSS
1 Fastidious (6)
4 Widespread outbreak (8)
9 Become due for payment (6)
10 Uncertainly defined situation (4,4)
12 Ruminate on (4,4)
13 Encourage (6)
15 Pb (4)
16 Robber of road travellers (10)
19 US money market (4,6)
20 Break suddenly (4)
23 Insurrection (6)
25 Fairly large (8)
27 Freedom from prejudice (4,4)
28 A petroleum jelly (6)
29 Naturally gifted (8)
30 Evoke (6)

DOWN
1 Funny (7)
2 Alert and competent (2,3,4)
3 Moral discourse (6)
5 Unadulterated (4)
6 Routine (3-2-3)
7 Worth (5)
8 Acute annoyance (7)
11 Reckless mischief (7)
14 Mythical bird risen from the ashes (7)
17 Western Europe's highest peak (4,5)
18 In unison (2,3,3)
19 Physical training session (7)
21 Forestall (3-4)
22 Happen to (6)
24 Magic influence (5)
26 As soon as (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4013

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, Loose cash 10, Pulled in 12, Roll (role) 13, Bo-got-a 14, Tripper 15, Great time 17, Speedwell 18, Ton-sure 20, Rep-aid 21, The-E 24, Set about 26, Rolled up 28, Over 29, Feeble 31, Knitted 34, Made a note 36, C-loth e-ars 38, Call-s on 39, Thrown (throne) 40, O-pal 41, Say Grace 42, Reluct-an-t.
DOWN: 1, All right 2, Collie 3, Car-olin-e 4, C-ho-O-se 5, Speaks up 6, Flat denial 7, Re-minds 8, Simple 11, Dr-ill-Ed 16, Tou-can 19, Ni-E-ce 20, Rot (rev) 22, Haunt 23, Per-ish 25, One's own way 26, Rue 27, Do-rmice 30, Breathed 31, Know well 32, Deso-late 33, Passage 35, D-ollar 36, Cur-are 37, Ap-peal.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Ill temper 10, Leathery 12, Cowl 13, Gateau 14, Thistle 15, Purloined 17, Doubtless 18, Emerald 20, Parrot 21, Flag 24, Forgiven 26, Aperture 28, Reel 29, Precis 31, Pungent 34, Intention 36, Agreeable 38, Hostile 39, Lariat 40, Stir 41, Revealed 42, Senseless.
DOWN: 1, Disciple 2, Glower 3, Sprained 4, Friend 5, Flounder 6, Last but one 7, Thrifty 8, Writhe 11, Message 16, Orange 19, Evoke 20, Pen 22, Large 23, Stance 25, Vermicelli 26, Ass 27, Freight 30, Conclude 31, Pertains 32, Theorise 33, Enliven 35, Tossed 36, Across 37, Better.

SU DO KU X - 3730

					3			
				7		2		5
	3			8		4		7
			3	1				
								2
				2	6		5	
				9	5	1		
					1	3	8	
								4

SOLUTION TO 3729

7	5	4	1	9	8	3	2	6
3	6	8	5	2	4	9	7	1
1	2	9	6	3	7	4	8	5
9	4	2	3	5	1	8	6	7
5	7	3	4	8	6	2	1	9
8	1	6	9	7	2	5	4	3
6	8	5	7	4	3	1	9	2
4	3	7	2	1	9	6	5	8
2	9	1	8	6	5	7	3	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

PERENNIAL ISSUE Indian men's team schedule is unforgiving which can impact overall well-being of players

Crammed cricket CALENDAR

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

There has been a growing chorus among elite tennis players, across both genders, against an increasingly packed schedule. Top names such as six-time Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz and six-time major champion Iga Swiatek have openly criticised the gruelling calendar, even pulling out of high-profile tournaments to protect their well-being.

Since tennis is an individual sport, it might seem players can simply choose their events. However, the ATP and WTA make that difficult. To ensure top players' participation, vital for sponsorship and viewership, the ranking system forces players to compete in numerous tournaments to retain points that expire after 52 weeks. The result: even the best find themselves caught in a relentless cycle, warning that the pressure is damaging both mental and physical health.

A similar scenario unfolds in cricket. Top male cricketers spend nearly the entire year travelling, playing, packing, and flying from one city or continent to another. The pace is unsustainable and has created not only player fatigue but also spectator fatigue.

The growing popularity of T20 has further complicated the situation. For many nations lacking resources to sustain Test or ODI formats, the shortest version has become a lifeline. It's fast, entertaining, and financially rewarding, drawing a new generation of players who see cricket as a viable full-time career.

There is another set of players, and there are fewer of them than fingers can count, which, for various reasons, is restricted to the traditional format which is well-rewarding.

The third and most valuable tier consists of multi-format players who can adapt across styles. These athletes are indispensable: they fill stadiums, attract sponsors, and drive broadcast ratings.

Taking just the Indian team into account, if it were the likes of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the immediate past, Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, among others, are fast joining that club. The rewards, of course, are commensurate -- franchise deals, brand endorsements and lucrative central contracts from the BCCI. But this success comes at a price. As the backbone of India's teams across formats, they play almost continuously throughout the year.

To get a sense of this madness, let's glance at India Test and ODI skipper Gill's workload in the last one year or so. Taking from the three-Test series at home against New Zealand from October 16, Gill has been playing non-stop in multiple formats. After three Tests against the Kiwis on November 3, he immediately flew to Australia for the five-Test series (Nov 22-Jan 5, skipped the first Test in Perth due to injury). This followed a healthy gap of one month before a deluge of events came in, starting with three ODIs against England (Feb 6-12). Soon after, he went to the UAE for the Champions Trophy (Feb 20-Mar 2). Immediately after his return, he was preparing and leading Gujarat Titans in IPL-18 (Mar 22 to end of May). From Jun 20-Aug 4, he was leading India in the away five-Test series against England. He had another long break before events followed and will continue to at a breakbody speed.

This stretch began with the Asia Cup (Sept 9-28) and has lasted more than two months with little break in between. Two days after landing in India from Dubai, the two-Test series against West Indies commenced (Oct 2-14), four days later he was playing the first of three ODIs in Australia. After a three-day break, five-match T20I series started, ending Saturday (Nov 8). Five days later, he would be leading India in the two-Test series against South Africa (Nov 14-26 in Kolkata and Guwahati). Following this, if he isn't rested, he would be captaining the side in the three ODIs (Nov 30-Dec 6) and playing the five T20Is (Dec 9-19) against the same opponents.

It's exhausting even to read, imagine playing through it! Each match demands hours of practice in the nets and gym sessions, leaving little recovery time. Gill's youth and fitness may help him for now, but such a schedule can break even the fittest athletes mentally and physically. Even Virat Kohli, once the epitome of stamina and focus, admitted to burnout despite his unmatched fitness regimen.

The team's policy of managing workload solves only a part of the problem, and a holistic approach is needed to address players' overall wellbeing.

What has also added to the workload is the streamlining of ICC events in all three formats. The biennial World Test Championship, the quadrennial ODI World Cup and the Champions Trophy and the biennial T20 World Cup. Unlike in the past, teams prepare more professionally for each of the white-ball tournament cycle by lining up a number bilateral series, making it difficult for players to skip these matches for the fear of ceding place to another aspirant.

Also, India, being India, are in demand across continents. They are cricket's cash cow and everyone wants a piece of them. To maintain their heft in international cricket, the BCCI sends Indian teams to countries like Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka to keep them floating. A "compulsion", neither England nor Australia are burdened with.

Australia visited West Indies earlier this year after a gap of 10 years. In the intervening period, India travelled to the Caribbean three times. England haven't set foot in Zimbabwe after the 1996-97 Test series while Australia last played the Africans away in 1999. Of course, one can point out India not playing Pakistan in a bilateral series since 2012, but they more than compensate for it.

In the bargain, it's the Indian cricketers that are burdened with more than their counterparts in England or Australia. Yes, no player is complaining even when he is presented with a chance during news conferences, but no one is either openly justifying the schedule.

A certain Kohli did question the crammed calendar during home Test series against Sri Lanka in 2017, but in the next interview he had changed his tune. It's anybody's guess what would have transpired between him and the powers that be. And we know what will continue to happen.

INDIAN TEAM'S SCHEDULE SINCE OCT 16, 2024

vs NZ Oct 16-Nov 3, 2024 3 Tests	vs Aus Nov 22-Jan 5, '24-25 5 Tests	vs Eng Jun 20-Aug 4, 2025 5 Tests	vs WI Oct 2-14, 2025 2 Tests	vs SA Nov 14-26, 2025 2 Tests
vs Eng Feb 6-12, 2025 3 ODIs	vs Aus Oct 19-25, 2025 3 ODIs	vs SA Nov 30-Dec 6, 2025 3 ODIs		
vs SA Nov 8-13, 2024 5 T20Is	vs Eng Jan 22-Feb 2, 2025 5 T20Is	vs Aus Oct 29-Nov 8, 2025 5 T20Is	vs SA Dec 9-19, 2025 5 T20Is	vs NZ Jan 21-31, 2026 5 T20Is
Champions Trophy Feb 20-Mar 2, 2025 ODI event	IPL Mar 22-Jun 3, 2025 T20 event	Asia Cup Sept 9-28, 2025 T20 event		

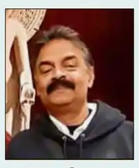
India have been managing Jasprit Bumrah's (left) workload to prevent his burnout while Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill has been playing non-stop. AFP

Shubman Gill

Pradeep lauds NAC's initiative

Having spent over 40 years of his life in training swimmers and helping them don India colours, former national head coach Pradeep Kumar, on Saturday, sat by the poolside at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre as a chief guest of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

The Dronacharya Awardee was seen enjoying new talent compete with some of the best senior swimmers in the country with pride evident in his eyes.



Pradeep Kumar

Terming the SKINS races as 'very challenging', Pradeep lauded NAC's initiative to introduce the format in India and encourage medallists with cash rewards.

"Parents invest money and time to make their kids champions. So such events with cash rewards are a big motivation for the swimming community," he said.

NETTAKALLAPPA SWIMMING COMPETITION

Chinthan outsmarts Srihari

17-year-old pips two-time Olympian in the SKINS 50m butterfly event

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Quick start off the blocks and a sprightly finish to the touch pad saw young Chinthan S Shetty pip two-time Olympian Srihari Nataraj for gold in the men's SKINS 50m butterfly race on the opening day of the fourth Nettakallappa Swimming Competition here on Saturday.

All eyes were on Srihari in the SKINS format (where top-8 swimmers tussle in a three-round final in a 25m pool) at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre. But it was 17-year-old Chinthan of Lakshyan Academy of Sports who stole the show to win gold with a timing of 25.16 seconds. Srihari, representing Dolphin Aquatics, clocked 25.49s to claim silver while Dharshan S, of Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre, timed 26.31s to pick up a bronze.

In the corresponding women's race, Rujuta Rajadnya of Deccan Aquatics (29.53s) finished first by outpacing Naisha Shetty of Swimlife (29.59s), who ended second, and Hashika Ramachandra of Bullblasty Aquatics (29.74s) who occupied the third spot on the podium.

The other SKINS event - 50m backstroke - earlier in the day, had Srihari (25.48s) and his club-mate Nina Venkatesh (29.76s) grab gold medals in the men's and women's races respectively.

SITTING (from left): Sujata Tilak Kumar - Director, Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre, Pradeep Kumar - Dronacharya Awardee and former National head coach, KN Tilak Kumar - Chairman, Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre, and Varun Nijhawan - Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre Head. STANDING: Two-time Olympian Srihari Nataraj along with India's other top swimmers Manavi Varma, Nina Venkatesh, Vidith S Shankar, Darshan S and NAC's lead coach Sharath Chandra, on the opening of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition at the NAC in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTOS/ PUSHKAR V

Results: Men: Seniors: 100m Butterfly: Chinthan S Shetty (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 57.72s) 1; Pratham Sharma (Dolphin Aquatics, 58.05s) 2; Lakshya Vashisht (Bullblasty Aquatics, 59.23s) 3.
100m Medley: Srihari Nataraj (Dolphin Aquatics, 57.53s) 1; Vidith S Shankar (Dolphin Aquatics, 58.29s) 2; Surya Jhoyappa (BAC, 59.34s) 3.
Group I: 100m Backstroke: Samarth Gowda BS (BAC, 1:01.13) 1; Aman Abhijit Sungar (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:01.62) 2; Kushal K (Matsya INC, 1:01.67) 3.
100m Butterfly: Dharshan S (BAC, 56.97s) 1; Dhakshan S (BAC, 57.28s) 2; Harikarthik Velu (Golden Fins, 58.49s) 3.
100m Medley: R Navaneeth Gowda (Dolphin Aquatics, 59.93s) 1; Surya JT (BAC, 1:00.69) 2; Akshaj Thakuria (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:01.46) 3.
Group II: 100m Backstroke: Advaita Venkata Madhira (BAC, 1:02.64) 1; Vihaan Shashwat Chaturvedi (BAC, 1:04.77) 2; Garapati Bharadwaj (Golden Fins, 1:05.43) 3.
100m Butterfly: Jeevamsh Subrahmanya (Matsya INC, 1:00.10) 1; Sharan S (BAC, 1:00.29) 2; Kabilan T (Matsya, 1:00.68) 3.
Group III: 100m Backstroke: Rakshit A Kore (BAC, 1:12.82) 1; Lohitashwa S Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:12.96) 2; Mayank Lalith (BAC, 1:15.80) 3.
100m Butterfly: Lohitashwa S Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:11.17) 1; Rakshit A Kore (BAC, 1:11.55) 2; Sujith Karthik (NAC, 1:15.04) 3.
SKINS 50m Backstroke: Srihari Nataraj (Dolphin Aquatics, 25.48s) 1; Akash Mani (BAC, 25.83s) 2; Siva Sridhar (BAC, 29.04s) 3.
SKINS 50m Butterfly: Chinthan S Shetty (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 25.16s) 1; Srihari Nataraj (Dolphin Aquatics, 25.49s) 2; Dharshan S (BAC, 26.31s) 3.
Women: Seniors: 100m Backstroke: Shruthi KR (GSC, 1:08.74) 1; Rujuta Rajadnya (Deccan Aquatics, 1:09.18) 2; Shrungi Rajesh Bandekar (Jain College, 1:09.24) 3.
100m Butterfly: Naisha Shetty (Swimlife, 1:06.37) 1; Lakshya Shivananda (BAC, 1:07.39) 2; Shirin (BAC, 1:08.14) 3.
100m Medley: Nina Venkatesh (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:08.56) 1; Shrungi Rajesh Bandekar (Jain College, 1:08.57) 2; Lakshya Shivananda (BAC, 1:08.69) 3.
Group I: 100m Backstroke: Naisha (BAC, 1:07.85) 1; Priyanshi Misra (BAC, 1:09.63) 2; Vihitha Nayana (BAC, 1:09.73) 3.
100m Butterfly: Tisya Sonar (BAC, 1:10.01) 1; Janya BS (BAC, 1:10.92) 2; Sonakshi Sathyanarayanan (BSA, 1:11.12) 3.
100m Medley: Dhinidhi Desinghu 9Dolphin Aquatics, 1:04.92) 1; Vihitha Nayana (BAC, 1:06.90) 2; Manavi Varma (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:07.79) 3.
Group II: 100m Backstroke: Trisha S Sindhu (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:12.64) 1; Sumedha V (DKV Aquatic Centre, 1:13.01) 2; Avhni Bellappa (DKV Aquatic Centre, 1:14.55) 3.
100m Butterfly: Trisha S Sindhu (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:07.14) 1; Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:08.68) 2; Aadya Bharadwaj (Zee Swim Academy, 1:10.99) 3.
Group III: 100m Backstroke: Shreya Suresh Pujar (BSA, 1:18.06) 1; Jharna Sisodiya (Ekalavya Sports Academy, 1:18.25) 2; Stuti Singh (BSA, 1:18.54) 3.
100m Butterfly: Imaya Ah (DKV Aquatic Centre, 1:14.24) 1; Stuti Singh (BSA, 1:14.35) 2; Smrithi Mahesh (BAC, 1:18.43) 3.
SKINS 50m Backstroke: Nina Venkatesh (Dolphin Aquatics, 29.76s) 1; Vihitha Nayana (BAC, 30.02s) 2; Naisha (BAC, 31.14s) 3.
SKINS 50m Butterfly: Rujuta Rajadnya (Deccan Aquatics, 29.53s) 1; Naisha Shetty (Swimlife, 29.59s) 2; Hashika Ramachandra (Bullblasty Aquatics, 29.74s) 3.

Chinthan S Shetty (left) powered to victory in the men's SKINS 50m butterfly race while Rujuta Rajadnya won the corresponding women's event.

Agrador for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Darius Byramji-trained Agrador will garner the maximum support in the Bengaluru City Police Cup, the feature event of the Bengaluru races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs on Sunday. The first race starts at 1:30 pm.
1. Jog Falls Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Rosaline 1, Divine Protector 2, Kazing 3.
2. World Cancer Awareness Plate - 1200M: Estefania 1, Feel Of Hope 2, Flamingo Dream 3.
3. Jog Falls Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Eagle Eye 1, Xanthe 2, Hyperdrive 3.
4. Udupi Plate - 1400M: Lux Aeterna 1, Connecting Dots 2, Disciple 3.
5. TB Hanumanthraj Memorial Trophy - 1200M: See The Light 1, Pole Star 2, Run For The Sun 3.
6. Bengalure City Police Cup - 1400M: Agrador 1, Valiant Stream 2, Auctav 3.
7. Gomos Plate - 1400M: Efficacy 1, Victoria Doresaani 2, Mazal Tov 3.
8. Malaprabha Plate - 1200M: Dictator 1, Honest Desire 2, Mister Brown 3.
Day's best: Eagle Eye.
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. I treble: 3, 4 & 5.
II treble: 6, 7 & 8.

Queens Premier League Season 2 from Monday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The much-awaited KNS Infra presents Queens Premier League Season 2 -- QPL 2.0 Kreedotsava -- organised by MKJ Entertainment, will kick off on November 10 in a bigger and bolder fashion.

Following the massive success of its first edition, QPL returns with 12 exciting games, 10 celebrity captains, 10 powerful teams, and over 150 participating artists, celebrities and influencers. The tournament will kick off with preliminary events on Nov 10 at Base Camp, Central College, Nov 11 at E-Zone, Marathahalli, and the grand main league from Nov 12 to 15 at Koramangala Indoor Stadium.

Entry for the public is absolutely free, giving fans a chance to cheer for their favourite stars live in action.

QPL Season 2 features Sandalwood Queen Ramya as the official brand ambassador, symbolising the fusion of glamour, fitness and empowerment that defines the event.

This season also carries a strong social message with the "Say No to Drugs" campaign.

The teams: Chitradurga Queens: Team Owners: Karthik Shekar, Vikram Prabhakar; **Star captain:** Radhika Narayan; **Vice-captain:** Spoorthi Vishwas; **Icon player:** Soundarya Gowda; **Power queen:** Amrutha V Raj.
Shivamogga Queens: Team owner: Suresh Gowda; **Star captain:** Bhavana Rao; **Vice-captain:** Priyanka Kamath; **Icon player:** Dr Akshata Kulkarni; **Power queen:** Spoorthy Gowda.
Mangaluru Queens: Team owners: Swastik Arya, Manikanth, Girish K L; **Star captain:** Parvati Nair; **Vice-captain:** Arrohitha Gowda; **Icon player:** Vijayshree Kalburgi; **Power queen:** Nithyashree.
Belagavi Queens: Team owner: Vishnu Srinivasa Murthy; **Star captain:** Nidhi Subbaiah; **Vice-cptain:** Sushmitha Jaggappa; **Icon player:** Akshitha Sathyanarayana; **Power queen:** Krutika Ravindra.
Mysuru Queens: Team owner: Roopa; **Star captain:** Rachana Inder; **Vice-captain:** Yashaswini Deshpande; **Icon player:** Impana Jayaraj; **Power queen:** Kavitha Gowda.
Hubli Queens: Team owner: Shashank Narayan Reddy; **Star captain:** Neha Saxena; **Vice-captain:** Sinchan Dixit; **Icon player:** Dhanu Harsha; **Power queen:** Hema Thimmaiah.
Bellary Queens: Team owner: Arvind Reddy; **Star captain:** Dhanya Ramkumar; **Vice-captain:** Chinmayee Yoga Deepthi; **Icon player:** Adya Priya; **Power queen:** Greeshma Gowda.
Bengaluru Queens: Team owner: Mohammed Jaffer; **Star captain:** Sapthami Gowda; **Vice-captain:** Deesha Umesh; **Icon player:** Vrusha Patil; **Power queen:** Akshita.
Hassan Queens: Team owner: Roopa D N; **Star captain:** Shanvi Srivastava; **Vice-captain:** Chandana Raghavendra; **Icon player:** Amrutha Murthy; **Power queen:** Vidya.
Kolar Queens: Team owner: Vanitha Lokesh; **Star captain:** Asha Bhat; **Vice-captain:** Neetu Vanajakshi; **Icon player:** Chandana K Gowda; **Power queen:** Madhu Kesarkar.

Advani makes confident start

BENGALURU, DHNS: Three-time champion Pankaj Advani **(in pic)** opened his IBSF World Snooker Championship campaign with a composed 4-1 victory over Canada's Sahil Nayyar in Doha on Saturday.

Except for a brief stumble in the third frame of the best-of-seven Group 'H' tie, the seasoned Indian barely faced resistance. Advani hit top gear early, racing to a 2-0 advantage before Nayyar fought back with a frame of his own.

However, the 40-year-old cue legend quickly regained control, pocketing the next two frames with ease. A fluent 53-point break in the fifth sealed the deal for Advani, who last lifted the crown in 2017. He will next meet Malaysia's Thor Chuan Leong, who advanced from the opening round.

In Group 'E', Brijesh Damani trailed 2-3 against France's Nicolas Mortreux, while Hussain Khan was set to face Ireland's Brendon O'Donoghue.

Result (All Indian results): Group H: Pankaj Advani bt Sahil Nayyar (CAN) 4-1; **Group E:** Brijesh Damani lt to Nicolas Mortreux (FRA) 2-3.

De Ligt rescues draw for spirited Man United

LONDON, AFP: Matthijs de Ligt salvaged a 2-2 draw for Manchester United at Tottenham in a frantic finale as both sides missed the chance to go second in the Premier League on Saturday.

Spurs looked to have secured a dramatic victory, having trailed with six minutes to go, as Mathys Tel equalised before Richarlison headed home in the 91st minute.

However, De Ligt powered in a 96th-minute header to extend United's unbeaten run to five games.

Both sides move onto 18 points from 11 games but goal difference separates Spurs in third from United in seventh. The Red Devils have now failed to beat Spurs in their previous eight meetings, but it was the most recent of which that will live long in the memory of the Tottenham support.

Spurs ended their 17-year trophy drought thanks to a scrappy 1-0 win in the Europa League final in May, which also took them into the Champions League while United missed out on European football altogether.

Despite the huge blow to the United's finances and prestige, Ruben Amorim is making the most of having more time on the training field to build some momentum after a tough first year.

Results: Tottenham: 2 (Tel 84th, Richarlison 90+1st) drew with Manchester United: 2 (Mbeumo 32nd, De Ligt 90+6th); Everton: 2 (Gueye 45+4th, Keane 81st) bt Fulham: 0; West Ham: 3 (Wilson 44th, Soucek 77th, Walker-Peters 87th) bt Burnley: 2 (Flemming 35th, Cullen 90+7th).

Kashvi, Vandita take Karnataka into U-19 semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Spin duo K Kashvi and Vandita Rao powered Karnataka into the semifinals of the Women's U-19 T20 Trophy elite as the side defeated Delhi by 11 runs in the quarterfinals in Kolkata on Saturday.

Skipper Vandita, leg-break bowler from Bengaluru, delivered a spell of 3/30 while Nellore's orthodox spinner Kashvi took 2/23 to restrict Delhi 119/8 while defending a 131 at the Salt Lake Ground.

Kashvi was splendid in all departments as she took a couple of catches and scored a run-a-ball 20 in the death overs to help Karnataka post a fighting total of 130/5 while opener Rachitha Hatwar anchored the innings with an unbeaten 57-ball 55.

Wicketkeeper-batter Shreyas Chavan, however, deserves credit for adding the much-needed scoring rate to Karnataka's innings as she scored a 34 off 22, laced with five fours and a six, after the side lost in-form opener Liyanka Shetty (11) early.

Karnataka will take on Baroda in the first semifinal on November 10.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 130/ 5 in 20 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 55 n.o., Shreya Chavan 34; Mahi Chauhan 2/19) bt Delhi 119/8 in 20 overs (Vandita Rao 3-30, Kashvi Kandikuppa 2-23).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Four-day game: India A vs South Africa A **(Day 4, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

Ranji Trophy: Delhi vs J&K, Vidarbha vs Odisha, Haryana vs Uttarakhand **(Day 2, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Brentford vs Newcastle, Nottingham Forest vs Leeds United, Aston Villa vs Bournemouth, Crystal Palace vs Brighton **(7:30 pm)**; Manchester City vs Liverpool **(10 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network & JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Athletic Club vs Real Oviedo **(6:30 pm)**; Rayo Vallecano vs Real Madrid **(8:45 pm)**; Mallorca vs Getafe, Valencia vs Real Betis **(11 pm)**; Celta vs Barcelona **(1:30 am, Monday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

TENNIS

ATP Finals: Singles round robin **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5.**

FORMULA ONE

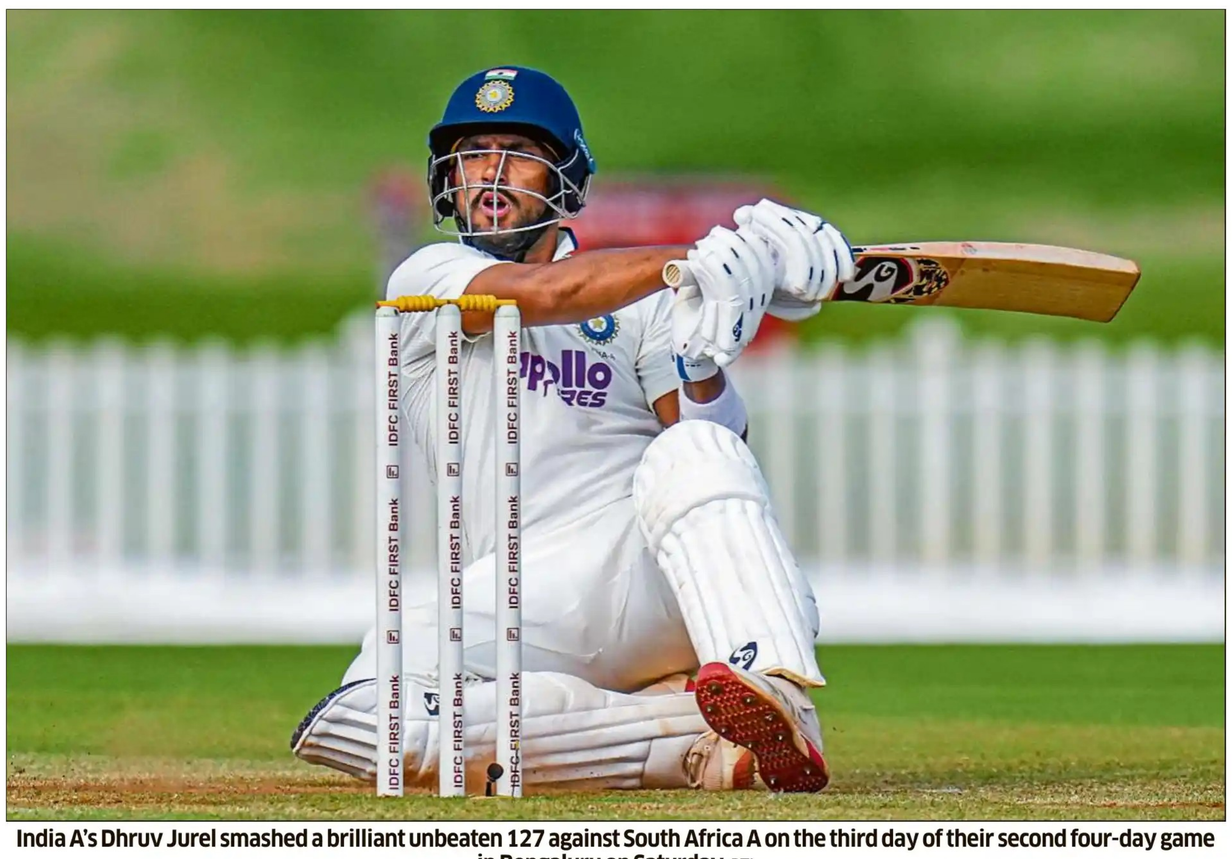
Sao Paulo GP: Race day **(10:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET FOUR-DAY GAME

Jurel delivers another hit

Scores second century of the match as India A declare at 382/7 vs SA A

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS



India A's Dhruv Jurel smashed a brilliant unbeaten 127 against South Africa A on the third day of their second four-day game in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

Dhruv Jurel strengthened his reputation as a specialist batter with a brilliant unbeaten hundred -- his second of the game -- while the impressive Harsh Dubey's batting abilities came to the fore as India A drove towards a commanding position on day three of the second four-day game at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence here on Saturday.

Jurel (127 n.o., 170b, 15x4, 1x6) scored his fourth first-class hundred, Vidarbha all-rounder Dubey (84, 116b, 12x4, 1x6) registered his ninth first-class half-century and the flamboyant Rishabh Pant (65, 54b, 5x4, 4x6) steered India to 382/7 decl in 89.2 overs to set a 417-run target for South Africa A.

At stumps, South Africa A were 25 for no loss in 11 overs with Jordan Hermann (15 not out) and Lesego Senokwane (9 not out), with the visitors still needing 392 on the final day.

Having returned to bat after a brief injury scare, Pant carved out a knock for the gallery, with his hand-eye coordination -- a hallmark of his game -- yet again taking centre stage as he stitched an 82-run partnership off 54 balls with his Indian Test back-up Jurel.

Earlier on, when Pant walked back to the pavilion having copped a few blows and Kuldeep Yadav (16, 54b, 2x4) was dismissed at 116 for the loss of five, it looked like the visitors were in with a chance to bowl India A out cheaply.

However, in Jurel and Dubey, India A found a partnership that handled the pressure and stitched a 184-run stand, facing 250 balls and batting for exactly three hours.

There was not much on offer for the bowlers and Jurel used it to his advantage and continued to impress the Indian selectors and team management, reaching his fourth first-class hundred in 159 balls with a flick through mid-wicket in the final session.

On the other hand, Dubey, who has had a good domestic season with the ball, showed off his batting skills and reached his fifty in 76 balls. He survived a few shouts, but nothing convincing for the umpire to raise his finger. If the first session honours were shared, the South African bowlers were put through the sword in the second and third.

Resuming from their overnight score of 78/3, India A had an early hiccup when KL Rahul (27) was sent back after adding just a run to his overnight score, having completely misread the line off Okuhle Cele.

While the surface did not look as green as it did on the first two days, but still had enough for the fast bowlers to extract in the first hour of play.

Pant, however, batted in his customary style, trying to play shots all around. While he managed to smash two fours and dispatch one out of the ground, the early morning harvest ended when he copped one to the abdomen and had to walk back, retired hurt on 17.

He also had the physio rushing from the dressing room twice before. First, when he looked to reverse hook a short ball, and then, attempting a regulation pull, both of Tshepo Moreki. Kuldeep's patience eventually gave in as he stepped down the track to Subrayen, only to hit it to Temba Bavuma at mid-on.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA A (I Innings): 255.
SOUTH AFRICA A (I Innings): 221.
INDIA A (II Innings, O/n: 78/3): Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw Cele 0 (3b), KL Rahul b Cele 27 (60b, 3x4), Sai Sudharsan lbw van Vuuren 23 (38b, 5x4), Devdutt Padikkal c Senokwane b Cele 24 (42b, 3x4), Kuldeep Yadav c Bavuma b Subrayen 16 (54b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Esterhuizen b Simmonds 65 (54b, 5x4, 4x6), Dhruv Jurel (not out) 127 (170b, 15x4, 1x6), Harsh Dubey c Simmonds b Moreki 84 (116b, 12x4, 1x6). Extras (LB-8, B-5, NB-1, W-2) 16. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts, 89.2 overs) 382 decl.**
Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Easwaran), 2-40 (Sudharsan), 3-78 (Padikkal), 4-84 (Rahul), 4-108* (Pant retired hurt), 5-116 (Kuldeep), 6-300 (Harsh), 7-382 (Pant). **Bowling:** Tshepo Moreki 21-3-69-1, Okuhle Cele 14-3-46-3, Tiaan van Vuuren 17-2-82-1, Prenelan Subrayen 22-2-76-1, Kyle Simmonds 14.2-1-89-1, Jordan Hermann 1-0-7-0.
SOUTH AFRICA A (II Innings): Jordan Hermann (batting) 15 (30b, 2x4), Lesego Senokwane (batting) 9 (36b, 1x4). Extras (LB-1) 1. **TOTAL (for no loss, 11 overs) 25.**
Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 6-2-10-0, Akash Deep 3-1-10-0, Prasidh Krishna 2-0-4-0.

India seal series as rain has final say

Visitors triumph 2-1 after fifth game is washed out

BRISBANE, PTI

India clinched the five-match T20 International series against Australia 2-1 after the fifth and final game was abandoned due to rain here on Saturday.

Put in to bat, India made a blazing start with openers Abhishek Sharma (23 not out off 13 balls) and Shubman Gill (29 not out off 16 balls) going on the offensive. But lightning stopped play with India cruising at 52 for no loss in 4.5 overs. Soon after, heavy rain lashed the Gabba, forcing the match to be abandoned.

Earlier, Australia had their chances to remove the dangerous Abhishek early but failed to capitalise on them.

Glenn Maxwell dropped a sitter after the left-hander miscued a shot in the opening over, while Ben Dwarshuis spilled a regulation catch in the fourth over when Abhishek was on 11.

Three balls later, Abhishek thrilled the Indian fans with a powerful flat six over mid-wicket.

Gill, meanwhile, took a special liking to Dwarshuis, cracking three boundaries off the left-arm pacer in the third over to keep India's brisk start intact.

Strong preparation

Abhishek Sharma prepared himself "mentally and technically" for months to take on the Australian challenge, and the results showed as the young opener took the 'Player of the Series' award in India's hard-fought 2-1 triumph Down Under.

Having impressed with his aggressive batting at the top, the 24-year-old said he had for long looked forward to testing himself on the bouncy Australian pitches and against high-quality pace attack.

He ended with 163 runs in five outings even as two matches were rained out.

"I have been waiting for this tournament. When I got to know we're going to Australia for the T20Is, I was very excited," Abhishek said.

"Throughout my career, I've seen that Australia is very batting-friendly, and I wanted to prepare myself for these kinds of bowlers and conditions."

The left-hander said his preparation focused on facing world-class fast bowlers and adapting his game to Australian surfaces.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Abhishek (not out) 23
Gill (not out) 29
TOTAL (for no loss, 4.5 overs) 52
Bowling: Dwarshuis 2-0-27-0, Bartlett 1.5-0-13-0, Ellis 1-0-12-0.
Result: Match abandoned due to rain. **Series:** India win 5-match series 2-1.
PoS: Abhishek Sharma.

The Indian team celebrates their series victory over Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane on Saturday. AFP

Fortunes fluctuate on opening day

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a see-saw battle where the pendulum swung from one side to the other, honours were even at the end of the first day's play in Karnataka's fourth Elite Group B fixture against Maharashtra at the MCA Cricket Ground at Guhanje in Pune on Saturday.

Maharashtra's 38-year-old off-spinner Jalaj Saxena picked up a three-wicket haul, while Vicky Otswal (1/50) and Ramakrishna Ghosh (1/33) combined to reduce Karnataka to 257 for five in 89 overs as the defiant Mayank Agarwal (80, 181b, 7x4, 2x6) headlined the visitors' fight.

Maharashtra were solid with the ball for most parts but failed to pick a wicket in the last 27.9 overs before the close as a stubborn Shreyas Gopal (32 n.o., 80b, 3x4) and Abhinav Manohar (31 n.o., 102b, 2x6) built an unbeaten 63-run partnership off 167 balls, restoring parity for the visitors from a precarious 194 for five.

Earlier in the day, Karnataka made two changes following their thumping win over Kerala, bringing in all-rounder M Venkatesh and Abhilash Shetty for Shikhar Shetty and Vyshak Vijaykumar.

Electing to bat, Karnataka got off to a brisk start with Aneesh KV (34) smashing four fours and a six, along with Agarwal, who registered his second half-century of the season. The duo stitched a 66-run opening partnership.

Maharashtra, then struck a few blows in quick succession as they stemmed the run flow. Saxena trapped Aneesh in front to give the visitors their first breakthrough and then cleaned up KL Shrijith (10, 15b, 2x4) to reduce Karnataka to 82 for 2 in 23 overs.

Shrijith, who hit form in the last game with a fluent fifty, had to make the long walk back in the 23rd over.

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal scored 80 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy game against Maharashtra in Pune on Saturday. DH FILE PHOTO

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings): Aneesh KV lbw Saxena 34 (58b, 4x4, 1x6), Mayank Agarwal 80 (181b, 7x4, 2x6), Shrijith KL lbw Saxena 10 (15b, 2x4), Karun Nair b Ghosh 4 (14b), Smaran R c Bawane b Ostwal 54 (84b, 7x4), Abhinav Manohar (batting) 31 (102b, 2x6), Shreyas Gopal (batting) 32 (80b, 3x4). Extras (LB-12) 12. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 89 overs) 257**
Fall of wickets: 1-66 (Aneesh), 2-82 (Shrijith), 3-89 (Karun), 4-188 (Smaran), 5-194 (Agarwal).
Bowling: Rajneesh Gurbani 14-2-38-0, Mukesh Chowdhary 8-1-44-0, Vicky Ostwal 24-8-50-1, Jalaj Saxena 30-2-80-3, RS Ghosh 13-4-33-1.
Group B brief scores: At Porvorim: Goa: 256/8 in 84.5 overs (Suyash Prabudessai 65, Snehal Kauthankar 41, Lalit Yadav 41, Darshal Misal 44, Deepraj Goankar 30 n.o.; Saransh Jain 4-72) vs Madhya Pradesh
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh: 173 all out in 51 overs (Nikhil Thakur 63, Gaurav Puri 40; Ayush Goyal 4-50, Abhinav Mishra 2-23, Harpreet Brar 3-29) vs Punjab: 71/3 in 26 overs (Harnoor Singh 29, Uday Saharan 31; Vishu Kashyap 2-5).
At Mangalapuram: Saurashtra 160 all out in 55.2 overs (Jay Gohil 84; MD Nidheesh 6-20, Baba Aparajith 3-16) vs Kerala: 82/2 in 22 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 59 n.o.; Hiten Kanbi 2-26).

'Options worked out to get back home Asia Cup trophy'

NEW DELHI, PTI: The cricket boards of India and Pakistan have managed to "break the ice" on the Asia Cup trophy dispute and will work towards finding a plausible solution in the coming days, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia **(in pic)** told PTI after meeting PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sidelines of an ICC gathering in Dubai.

The Asia Cup Trophy wasn't presented to India by Naqvi, who also happens to be the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairperson, after the winning team refused to accept it from him due to his anti-India position.

Suryakumar Yadav's men defeated Pakistan in the final of the T20 event held in Dubai on September 28.

"I was a part of both the informal and formal meeting of the ICC. PCB chairperson Mohsin Naqvi was also present. During the course of a formal meeting, it was not on agenda but ICC facilitated a meeting between myself and the PCB chief separately in the presence of a senior ICC office-bearer and another senior official," Saikia told PTI on Saturday.

"It was really good to start the process of negotiation. Both sides cordially participated in the meeting which took place on the sidelines of the ICC board meet," he added, assuring that a solution will be worked out soon.

While Saikia didn't wish to name any ICC official, it is reliably learnt that deputy chairman Imran Khawaja and CEO Sanjog Gupta initiated the discussions between the two cricket boards.

The trophy has been lying at the ACC headquarters in Dubai with the staff there instructed by Naqvi to not move it without his permission. Naqvi has insisted that the Indians will have to accept the top prize from him.

Veteran Ravinder shoots first gold medal

CAIRO, PTI: Two-time Olympian Elavenil Valarivan came up with a heart-stopping performance before signing off with a bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle event while veteran army marksman Ravinder Singh brought India more glory by clinching gold in men's 50m free pistol at the ISSF World Championships here on Saturday.

On a day when the 26-year-old Elavenil looked good to take the top podium spot after grabbing the lead in the final, a heartbreak moment happened when she scored a 10.0 on the 19th shot to slip to third from where she lost momentum and could manage a poor 9.9 on the 22nd shot to finish in third place with a score of 232.0.

Ravinder Singh

South Korea's Ban Hyojin won with a score of 255.0, while China's Wang Zifei, who trailed Valarivan till the 19th shot, took the silver with a score of 254.0 in the highly-competitive Olympic event.

The Indian women's team of Elavenil, Meghana Sajjanar and Shreya Agrawal won the bronze with an aggregate of 1893.3, while China (1901.7) and South Korea (1899.9) took the gold and silver respectively.

Valarivan's 633.4 helped her make it to the eight-player individual final in fifth place, while Meghana finished 17th and Shreya 33rd.

Ravinder Singh, the 29-year-old Naik Subedar in the Indian Army, achieved the biggest success in his shooting career by winning gold in 50m pistol, a non-Olympic discipline.

Ravinder had won an individual bronze in the 2023 edition of the Worlds in Baku.

World Champion Gukesh eliminated by Svane

MANISHA MOHITE

GOA: In the most sensational third round of the FIDE World Cup, reigning World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh **(in pic)** was eliminated by Frederik Svane of Germany here.

Fourth-seed Dutchman Anish Giri was also knocked out by Alexander Donchenko and eighth-seed Nodirbek AbduSattorov was also sent packing by Jose Martinez. This was one of the most brutal rounds where the top seeds succumbed to players rated much below them.

Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, Pranav Venkatraman and Pentala Harikrishna brought some cheer to the Indian camp by advancing to the fourth round of the 206-player knock-out event. Pragg, who had so far been struggling for survival since his entry in the second round, found his rhythm on the day playing a neat game to defeat Shamsiddin Vakhidov.

Out of the 10 Indians in the third round, four have advanced, three are knocked out and three of them will play the tie-break. SL Narayan will feature in his third consecutive tie-break against Yu Yangyi of China as will Vidit Gujrathi and Karthik Venkataraman, all three Indians having drawn both their classical encounters.

Results (Round 3.2): GM Frederik Svane (GER) bt GM D Gukesh; GM Arjun Erigaisi drew with GM Shamsiddin Vokhidov (UZB); GM Robert Hovhannisyan lost to GM R Praggnanandhaa; GM Pranav Venkatesh drew with GM Titas Stremavicius (LTU); GM Vincent Keymer (GER) bt M Pranesh M; GM Diptayan Ghosh lost to GM Gabriel Sargissian (ARM); GM SL Narayanan drew with GM Yangyi Yu (CHN); GM Sam Shankland (USA) drew with GM Vidit Gujrathi; 1-1; GM Karthik V drew with GM Bogdan-Daniel (ROU); GM Pentala Harikrishna drew with GM Daniel Dardha (BEL).

SZ chase unravels late

BENGALURU, DHNS: South Zone slumped to a heartbreaking four-run defeat against West Zone in their third round-robin match of the Senior Women's Inter-Zonal T20 Trophy at Sovima (Nagaland) on Saturday. The loss severely dented their chances of qualifying for the final.

Chasing 147 at the Nagaland Cricket Stadium, South Zone appeared in control with just 10 runs required off the last two overs while G Kamalini (34 off 29) was well set at the crease.

However, pacer Sayali Satghare (0/25) kept West's hopes alive by conceding only four runs in the penultimate over.

Brief scores: West Zone: 146/6 in 20 overs (Kiran Navigire 37, Tejal Hasabnis 50 n.o.; Asha Shobana 2-25, Prathyusha C 2-22) bt South Zone: 142/7 in 20 overs (Yuvashri Karthikeyan 25, S Meghana 34, Niki Prasad 32, G Kamalini 34; Humaira Kazi 2-1).

MCHS, Beagles champions

BENGALURU, DHNS

MCHS and Beagles BC won the boys' and girls' finals respectively to clinch the gold medal at the Mini Karnataka Games here on Saturday.

In the boys' final, Mysuru's MCHS clinched a hard-fought victory over Southern Blues (Bengaluru) with a final score of 55 -50. The girls' final saw Bengaluru's Beagles BC deliver a commanding performance against Mandya District, winning decisively with a final score of 51-31.

Meanwhile, the shooting events saw Avantika Madhu of Bengaluru win two gold medals in the 10m air pistol individual and team events. Avantika's total score of 378 points (including 9 inner-circle shots) helped her finish ahead of city-mates Vaishnavi Jamadar (367) and Kiara Das (365).

Results (winners only): Boys: Basketball: MCHS (Msyore)
Gymnastics: Aerobics gymnastics: Individual: Shubham Bafna (Bengaluru); **Group:** Bengaluru. **Acrobatics: Pair:** Hassan; **Group:** Mysuru
Judo: 25kg: Sholka Krishna K (Belagavi); **30kg:** Pradeep Shreekanta Nayak (Belagavi); **35kg:** Darshan KP (Chikmagaluru); **40kg:** Ganesh NR (Shivamogga); **45kg:** Varshith KR (Shivamogga); **50kg:** Kushal MN (Shivamogga); **55kg:** Dhruthik Reddy (Bengaluru); **60kg:** Jayanth D (Mandya); **66kg:** Rohith Shetty (Mandya); **66kg+:** Pavan Kumar (Chikkamagaluru).
Shooting: 10M air pistol: Individual: Apoorva Vaidyanath S (Bengaluru); **Team:** Shravan, Siddarth, Vishwa (Bengaluru).
Girls: Basketball: Beagles BC (Bengaluru).

Beagles BC pose with their spoils after winning the girls' basketball event at the Mini Karnataka Games in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Gymnastics: Aerobics gymnastics: Individual: Vighya Gupta (Bengaluru); **Pair:** Bengaluru; **Group:** Bengaluru; **Trio:** Bengaluru.
Judo: 23kg: Shreya S (Belagavi); **28kg:** Shravani Sheetal (Chikkodi); **36 kg:** Amrutha B (Chikmagaluru); **40kg:** Ranjana K Naik (Belagavi); **44kg:** Sanvi BT (Raichur); **48kg:** Kaveri RL (Chikmagaluru); **52kg:** Srushti A (Davanagere); **57kg:** Aradya Sri J (Chikmagaluru); **57kg+:** Shantala G (Chikmagaluru).
Shooting: 10M air pistol: Individual: Avanthika Madhu (Bengaluru); **Team:** Avantika, Kiara, Vaishnavi (Bengaluru).
Mixed: Gymnastics: Aerobics gymnastics: Pair: Bengaluru

Rocket Men: Space for the few, wasteland for the rest?

POORVA PAKSHA

Aakash Singh Rathore
as Dr Jekyll is a Professor of Philosophy, Politics and Law, author and editor of over 20 books and counting, and as Mr Hyde, one of India's top-ranking Ironman triathletes
@ASR_metta

Indian media has been alive with reports of the country's latest space triumph – the successful launch of the CMS-03 satellite, a heavyweight communications platform hoisted by ISRO's LVM3 rocket. This satellite will strengthen maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, where India faces China's expanding presence. Space achievements stir national pride, but they also prompt reflection on what the advancements mean for ordinary lives. When we look up at the night sky, that sense of vastness settles in – not just awe but unease. What are we reaching for up there, and who decides? Let's explore this while Elton John's 1972 classic, 'Rocket Man', plays in the background:

'She packed my bags last night pre-flight/ Zero hour 9 AM/ And I'm gonna be high as a kite by then'

This month brings a mix of the familiar and the strange: the International Space Station (ISS) marking 25 years of nonstop human presence, India's steady push with satellites and the NISAR mission, and the odd case of 3I/ATLAS, an interstellar object passing through our solar system. Observations from NASA's Hubble show 3I/ATLAS defying easy explanations – a subtle shift in path, a blue-tinged glow, acceleration that gravity should not allow. Harvard astrophysicist Avi Loeb wonders: Is 3I/ATLAS a natural oddity or a technological relic from afar? As the giant rock heads for a distant Earth flyby in December, Loeb implores us to plan missions to find answers.

Meanwhile, the ISS has continued circling Earth every 90 minutes since November 2, 2000. Built through uneasy partnerships, it has drawn over 270 people from 20 nations, turning old foes into colleagues, including Indian astronaut Group Captain Shukla, who visited the station this year. Their work has given us zero-gravity crystals for new drugs and studies on bone loss that help the elderly on the ground. It shows what happens when countries pool expertise, setting suspicions aside. But now, hardware fraying and budgets pinched, the station faces retirement by 2031 – a controlled plunge into the ocean.

Enter the billionaires. Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin bring reusable rockets that drop costs from eye-watering billions to manageable millions, firing off missions like clockwork. Satellite webs could beam internet to forgotten villages; commercial outposts like Axiom's or Orbital Reef might keep the orbit humming with factories, research, and even tourists. Space shifts from a government's burden to a market's playground, open to anyone with a couple of ideas and a lot of cash.

'Oh no no no, I'm a rocket man/ Rocket man, burning out his fuse up here alone'

What, ideologically, are we leaving behind? In the US, the shutdown has threatened the deep-space probe to Jupiter's Europa, while crewed private joyrides continue. Globally, it funnels opportunity upward: Space for the rich, spectator sports for the rest of us. Loeb's plea to hunt interstellar drifters like 3I/ATLAS fits here – those pursuits need shared funding.

'Mars ain't the kind of place to raise your kids/ In fact it's cold as hell/ And all this science I don't understand'

India's programme stands as a counterpoint, rooted in public effort but shadowed by real-world frictions. CMS-03 strengthens naval links across the Indian Ocean. NISAR, the Indo-US radar craft scheduled to be fully operational this week, scans for floods, quakes, and vanishing forests to head off disasters in our coastal belts. Gaganyaan edges toward its uncrewed trial, with crewed flights by 2027, leaning on achievements like the SpaDeX docking that proved that India can assemble spacecraft in orbit. ISRO does it lean: Moon landings for mere rupees on the American dollar, focused on tools that serve the many – early warnings that could spare lives in monsoons, secure comms that steady borders without fanfare.

But let's not excessively romanticise it. Satellites can track not just threats from abroad, but voices at home in a time when dissent already feels chilled. And equity? ISRO itself mirrors India's divides: few Dalit faces in labs, women and minorities sidelined by old barriers of caste, class, and faith.

Pull it together, and the picture sharpens: The ISS's sunset signals a world tilting from collective to private individuals, with billionaires steering towards their own priorities. India's path hints at balance, blending state drive with global ties like NISAR to keep science accessible to everyday people. But Loeb keeps warning us: The stars don't care about our models. We've scarred Earth with shortsighted grabs – polluted skies, hoarded waters. Why assume that space will fare better? Greed travels light, and if we export it upward, we'll just create new wastelands of galactic scale.

'And I think it's gonna be a long, long time/ 'Til touchdown brings me round again to find/ I'm not the man they think I am at home. Oh no no no, I'm a rocket man'

THAT BLIND RHODES SCHOLAR

Privilege upheld, reform still elusive

"Let us kill all the lawyers." Shakespeare's acerbic line from *Henry VI* is hardly the sort of epigraph one expects in a constitutional judgement. Yet the Supreme Court chose it to open its recent decision on the summoning of lawyers by investigative agencies. It is an unusual flourish, one that the Court uses to frame a deeper truth: that lawyers often occupy an unenviable, contentious space in public life, but the protection of their professional autonomy is central to the functioning of the justice system.

The judgement was delivered against the backdrop of a significant and worrying pattern. Senior advocates Pratap Venugopal and Arvind Datar were summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (later withdrawn after public outcry), prompting the Court to take *suo motu* cognisance. Alongside this came a Special Leave Petition challenging a High Court order refusing to set aside a similar summons issued to another lawyer. These events placed before the Supreme Court an important question: when, if ever, can investigative agencies compel advocates to disclose information protected by professional privilege?

Before turning to the substance, it is worth pausing on the process. The Supreme Court has no articulated criteria for taking up matters *suo motu*. That may be by design. Such jurisdiction is an extraordinary power to be used with judicial sensibility rather than rigid checklists. Yet the absence of guardrails raises uncomfortable questions.

Investigative overreach is hardly confined to the cases at hand; a long catalogue of instances involving journalists, activists, civil servants, and citizens could equally merit the Court's urgent attention. Why this case and not those? Why now and not earlier? This judgement, for all its seminal importance in safeguarding the rule of law, reopens the debate on whether some minimal indicators or principles for the exercise of *suo motu* powers are needed to ensure consistency, transparency, and fairness in the Court's exercise of these powers.

On the merits, the Court's central finding is clear and correct: the Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) [Sections 132-134] protects attorney-client privilege, subject to limited exceptions. Therefore, the summoning of lawyers is impermissible unless it falls within the ambit of prescribed exceptions, such as where the lawyer is himself involved in the commission of a crime. The Court attributes the lapses to either "deliberate design" or "abject ignorance" on the part of officials. But if the Court sees the conduct as deliberate or ignorant, why did it not seek explanations from the officials or direct disciplinary action? Why was there no order for compensation to lawyers who were wrongfully summoned? Without consequences, the underlying problem remains unaddressed. An assertion of privilege is important, but deterrence is equally so. This was an opportunity to achieve both.

Rahul Bajaj
is a practising lawyer with expertise in disability rights and IP law, and is co-founder of Mission Accessibility. He wears more hats than he can himself sometimes count
@rahul400

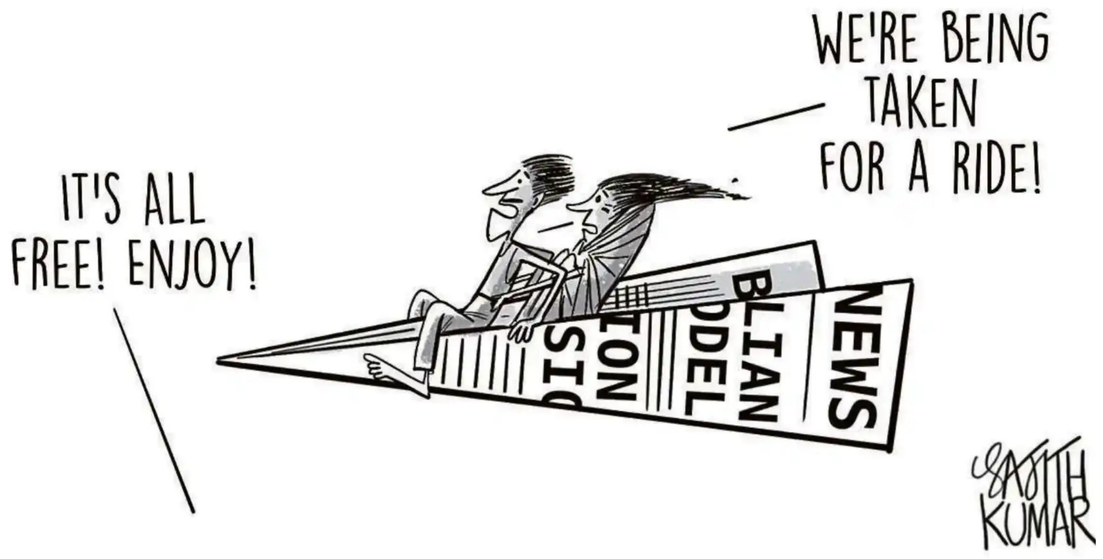
The judgement observes that constitutional courts exist to correct abuses of power, including investigatory excesses. It notes that the High Court's refusal to quash the summons in the matter resulting in the SLP was an "aberration." Perhaps it was. But perhaps it was a symptom of a deeper drift in how judicial oversight of investigative agencies is functioning. If High Courts defer to agencies or adopt a formalistic approach to challenges against coercive actions, simply reiterating their constitutional responsibility may not suffice. A more candid appraisal was needed.

One of the most concerning aspects of the judgement is the Court's acceptance that internal approval by senior officials of the agency – such as the Director of the ED or a Superintendent of Police – is adequate to prevent excesses. If the problem lies within the agency, how can the solution come from within it?

There is no denying the importance of the Court's reaffirmation of attorney-client privilege and its recognition of the unique role lawyers play in protecting constitutional rights. The judgement reinforces existing statutory protections and sends a signal that coercive tools must not be weaponised against the legal profession.

Yet, it stops short of creating meaningful structural disincentives for future overreach. Without accountability for past misconduct, without independent scrutiny over the issuance of summons, and without a candid examination of judicial lapses at the High Court level, the ruling risks becoming a restatement rather than a reform.

In a legal ecosystem where investigative agencies frequently test the boundaries of their power, and where judicial oversight oscillates between assertiveness and reluctance, guardrails matter as much as principles. The Supreme Court had a rare opportunity – seized *suo motu* – to strengthen both. Its judgement moves the needle, but not far enough.



THE Z FACTOR

A global war for brains

It has never been easier to immigrate to the United States than it is today – if you are a farmer.

Last month, the Trump administration eased visa rules for agricultural workers, streamlining their paperwork and allowing them to work for lower wages. These latest rules came shortly after Trump had imposed a mammoth $100,000 fee on H-1B visas issued to high-skilled workers.

On all counts, the two policy proclamations are both startling and counterintuitive. For decades, even when it has cracked down on illegal immigrants and turned away low-skilled labourers for fears that they would take American jobs, America has always tried to attract high-skilled talent. In 2019, for instance, Trump said that he intends to "stop illegal immigration" and "protect American wages" while" [attracting] the best and brightest from all around the world." On the campaign trail last year, he even suggested that all foreign college graduates should be given a green card with their diplomas.

The new visa policies signal a reversal on all fronts. According to US government data, at least 40% of farm workers in the country are illegal immigrants. Farmer groups argue that through the new rules, Trump is effectively reducing farm wages while replacing American workers with cheap foreign labour.

At first glance, this flies in the face of politics. Lower-skilled workers have tended to vote more loyally for Trump over the past decade. Why would Trump then increase competition against them while getting rid of multi-degree Silicon Valley engineers?

The reason is fairly simple: Many Trump voters would love to work for Google or Amazon. Nobody wants to work on a farm. In the wake of Trump's crackdown on illegal immigrants early this year, many farm workers fled, leaving crops to rot across the country. Farms in places that voted overwhelmingly for Trump have copped losses and shut down after owners struggled to find workers.

Mohamed Zeeshan
is a student of all things global and, self-confessedly, master of none, notwithstanding his Columbia Master's, a stint with the UN and with monarchs in the Middle East
@ZeeMohamed_

While America cracks down on its own universities, researchers, scientists, and high-skilled engineers, the rest of the world has travelled in the opposite direction. This is quite unlike the past. When Trump came to power eight years ago, his ultra-nationalist agenda had inspired copycat movements across much of the West. In Britain, France, the Netherlands, Germany, and elsewhere, far-right, anti-immigrant parties gained ground amid widespread scepticism toward foreigners. Visa rules were tightened across much of the developed world.

Now, those countries and others are vying for the brains fleeing visa uncertainty in America. In September, New Zealand and Britain announced easier work permit pathways for high-skilled workers. This week, Canada followed that up with a plan to create special visas for H-1B workers from the US. Even China has joined the race: In August, Beijing announced an unprecedented K visa, which would allow science graduates to live and work in the country without an employer sponsor.

These shifts could have lasting strategic and economic consequences. Take demographics. According to current UN population projections, almost all major powers around the world are expected to age and decline by the middle of this century – including China, India, Brazil, and all of Western Europe. By contrast, the US is expected to remain young as its working-age population grows well into the year 2100. So far, these promising projections have been enabled purely by immigration: In 2018, about 78% of foreign-born Americans were between the ages of 18 and 64, while only 59% of US-born Americans were.

In no small measure, skills add to this advantage. Both China and Europe have been keen to attract skilled graduates from US universities, all of whom can help them shape the evolving frontiers of the global AI economy. Will America cede that competitive edge?

THE BIG LENS

Trump, Xi and the optics of G2

US President Donald Trump called his October interaction with Chinese President Xi Jinping a "G2" meeting – "a 12 on a scale of one to 10" was how he rated it. What was billed as a big-bang meeting ended almost in a whimper, with China agreeing to start buying 25 million metric tons of American soybeans every year for the next three years. Trump is happy because "the American farmers will be happy". That China managed to leave the leader of a superpower pleased with this deal tells a story. But that has been the story of this meeting, where Xi has allowed Trump to walk away with an imaginary trophy. China has given away too little and too late – trade between the two countries is back to its position in May, when there was no tariff, no punitive fees on the use of ports, and no AI chips control.

While Trump has upgraded China's status to G2, there is hardly any doubt in the minds of the strategists in the US administration or the anti-China hawks in Trump's party and the White House about the president's strategy. After he met with Putin in Alaska, Trump gave the impression that it was also a G2 affair. Though the meeting went off well, there was no outcome to write home about. Trump could not convince Putin not to trade with China or sell oil to India at a discounted rate. A short truce apart, the Russia-Ukraine conflict did not end. In this context, Trump needed to elevate his meeting with Xi to G2 stature, and both parties took it with a fistful of salt. Neither Putin nor Xi would trust Trump's G2 branding.

China, grappling with headwinds impeding its manufacturing sector, urgently needs to re-enter the American market. Beijing is aware that Trump's desire and appeals notwithstanding, American manufacturing, which lost its steam decades ago, cannot be revived any sooner. Yet, high tariffs and competition from other Asian economies can put China in a quandary.

Seshadri Chari
reads between the lines on big national and international developments from his vantage point in the BJP and the RSS
@seshadrichari

While ensuring that it does not give much away, China has also evaded the tariff heat, at least for now. Meanwhile, like the US's strong, decades-old dollar policy, Beijing is adopting a strong Yuan policy and furthering the idea of the 'USD alternate' in every forum where it has an upper hand, including BRICS. Chinese Yuan is one of the few least depreciated currencies and is matching the USD in every trade deal. In this trade war, China has certainly come out stronger, directly affecting emerging economies, especially the world's fourth-largest economy, India.

There are important lessons for India in Trump's G2 declaration and the way Beijing has handled the president. By equating China with America, Trump has sent a strong signal to India, and by that logic, to other Quad members, that Communist China has given him what the democracies of the Quad could not give: trade concessions. With Quad being relegated to the background, there is a big question mark on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which promised to remove bottlenecks and create a strong supply chain mechanism for stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific region.

The much-hyped Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) has been put on the back burner even before it could operationalise its agenda. After participating in the pre-launch negotiating rounds of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), India opted out of its membership, calling it a pro-China forum. But soon after the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting, where India, China, and Russia huddled to work on a strategy to counter Trump's tariffs, New Delhi opened its door to trade with China. Now, with Trump elevating China to G2 stature, India can neither go back to the 'no-trade' days with China nor can it match the concessions, especially on agricultural products, that China can give the US.

The US-China bonhomie may not last long – the two countries are economically and culturally poles apart. The present camaraderie appears part of a long-term strategy to contain each other. Until one of them gives up, the contest for supremacy will continue. For India, it will be a long wait before it can normalise its ties with the US and, at the same time, do business with Beijing as equals. But it also gives us time to build our capabilities, reorient manufacturing, scale up defence strength, and reduce the asymmetries with both the US and China.

DHARMA

The Durga of Dalit mythology

Devdutt Pattanaik
works with gods and demons who churn nectar from the ocean of Indian, Chinese, Islamic, Christian, even secular mythologies

In recent years, there has been a growing clash between 'Sanatani mythology' and 'Dalit mythology'. During the festival season last month, a well-known Dalit activist argued that the worship of Durga is nothing but the celebration of an Aryan invasion of Dravidian lands. In his retelling, Mahishasur, the buffalo demon, represents dark-skinned Dravidians while Durga represents fair-skinned Aryans.

Because this retelling comes from a Dalit scholar, any challenge to it is immediately painted as casteist. But the Dalit retellers are following the toolkit long used by Sanatani activists who brand their critics as anti-national or communist. This is how ideological battles are fought today. Labels need to be weaponised. Myths need to be reimagined.

Political groups across the spectrum have always bent old stories to fit new narratives. In his 1873 book *Gulamgiri* (Slavery), Jyotiba Phule reimagined the Devas-Asuras wars as colonisation of ancient Dravidian lands by Aryan infiltrators. Great Asura kings like Prahalad, Virochana, and Bali were seen as demons. By turning 'gods' into colonisers and 'demons' into heroes, Phule gave Bahujan communities a counter-history. If Brahmins could use mythology to establish their supremacy, surely Dalits could use the same for social justice.

Sanatanis have long tried to debunk the Aryan Invasion Theory (AIT), arguing it was simply colonial propaganda. Some even propose the Out of India Theory (OIT) that claims Brahmins gave civilisation to the world. Ironically, it was Balgangadhar Tilak, the founding father of the Sanatani political ideology, who first decoded astronomy-based Vedic hymns to show that the Aryan homeland may have been north of the Himalayas, near the Arctic, probably. The Vedic 'Usha' hymns spoke of a land where there were dawns without any visible sun.

In the 20th century, Babasaheb Ambedkar rejected AIT as it was a racial theory aimed at establishing Brahmin-European-Aryan superiority. He argued caste was a social, economic, and political problem, not a racial one. But now, in the 21st century, we have a new source of evidence – genetics! DNA studies clearly show migration of Steppe pastoralists and horses into India took place over 3,000 years ago. Aryans did come to India. But not as invaders who destroyed the Harappan cities. They came to trade Central Asian horses for Indian iron, 500 years after Harappan cities had ceased to exist.

Both Sanatani and Dalit activists rarely bother with art or ritual history. The image of Durga with many arms, killing the buffalo, first appeared around 2,000 years ago in Kushan art (100 AD). It was first carved in stone during the Gupta period (400 AD). The Sanskrit story of Durga being created by the gods and restoring paradise to Indra appears much later in the *Markandeya Purana* (600 AD).

Across India, especially in the Deccan, there are folk traditions where worship of the goddess involves a ritual slaughter of a buffalo. These orally transmitted tales are fragmentary and layered. The young, virile priest who performs the ritual is called Pota Raju, the Buffalo King. He, typically, hails from a 'low' caste. He calls himself the servant and son of the goddess. He leads the procession to the temple. The goddess is pleased by rituals involving violence (fire-walking, hook-swinging, blood sacrifice). Every year, a young male buffalo (*reda*, in the local language) is chosen to be slaughtered the following year, a ritual mimicry of the renewal of earth's fertility. This suggests that the festival originally had little to do with grand cosmic battles between gods and demons. It was an agricultural ritual, deeply tied to cycles of sowing and harvesting. This story has nothing to do with the Vedic world.

Brahmins, who rarely participate in such boisterous village rituals, insist the goddess of the village was once a Brahmin girl. She was tricked into marrying a beef-eating man. When she discovered this, she killed him, and that event is remembered each year. They argue this is why many goddess temples are now vegetarian – the Chamunda temple in Mysuru, the Ambabai temple in Kolhapur. In fact, many Sanatanis think Bengalis need to stop offering meat and fish to Durga during their annual Pujo. Dalit myth-makers are using this very same story to make the outraged Brahmin's daughter the symbol of Aryan oppression and her beef-eating husband the embodiment of the oppressed.

Today, young Dalit activists are raising foundational questions: who makes the rules of Hinduism? Do those categorised as ST/SC have any say in the matter? Who classified those who eat cow meat as impure and those who drink cow urine as pure? It could not have been the goddess or the buffalo.

Gripped by the GREY

Eco-anxiety quietly shadows Bengaluru's once cherished weather. Even as young families fear a worsening world, there are some bright spots. Communities are coming together to compost, children are questioning their parents, and teens are repurposing their clothes. With COP-30 starting tomorrow, it is encouraging to see our collective indifference beginning to fade, says Smitha Murthy

It's a balmy, cloudy day here in Bengaluru. Last night, it had rained. Again. It's almost November at the time of writing this story. Yet the rains have stayed. This year, it has seemed that the monsoon that began in May has never really gone away. While old-time Bengalureans lament that their *ooru* is not a 'Garden City' anymore and that ACs are the norm in a city once famed for its deliciously cool summers, this year has proven otherwise. The average number of sunny days has declined, while the number of cloudy days has increased. A 2024 study found that Bengaluru is experiencing a steady decline of 4.71 hours of sunshine per year. That's about six full days of sunlight just vanishing from our skies.

Still, Bengaluru's "weather" draws us in. We brave the potholes and the incessant traffic just so that we can have that bajji and pakoda with a cup of steaming chai on gloomy days when the rain plays its own music. We console ourselves when the temperatures cross 40 degrees celsius in Delhi and smirk when Chennai sweats buckets in humidity. We have it good, still.

A fabric ripping apart

But is it really so? Behind that facade, we Indians are a worried lot. A 2023 Nature India study showed that Indians report the highest climate anxiety levels globally. And it's more apparent among the youth, who probably have to face the brunt of climate change over the next few decades. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) reported in June 2025 that 94% of Indian youth experience some form of eco-anxiety. Heatwaves, erratic rains, and water scarcity are the top causes. We are worried about the state of our planet, especially when the fabric is ripping apart at the seams, as it is now, and is directly affecting us.

"I often think about it, and there have been times when it kept me up at night. My worry and anxiety deepened after I had kids, when I kept going back to the question of what kind of planet my kids would inherit," admits Snigdha Ghosh Roy, a mother of two, who lives in Noida. "As someone who has lived almost her entire life in the northern part of the country, it is natural to wonder how we are going to live this way and for how long. There are mounds of plastic waste, untreated, of course. There is extreme consumption, SUVs as the preferred mode of transportation, multi-car households, excessive AC use, and so much more that is ridiculously indulgent," she despairs. And of course, the worry is always for the generation that's coming next. What sort of world will her kids grow up in?

On the brink, aren't we?

Sumit Singla is the father of a seven-year-old girl, and he has the same fears as Snigdha. "What I fear is that she'll grow up in a bleak, dystopian, post-apocalyptic world. It will be a world on the brink of climatic and societal collapse."

That might sound like he's describing a sci-fi novel, but the fears are valid. Air pollution in India is now an urban health emergency, and 40% of India's wetlands have disappeared over the past three decades. This worsens flooding situations. Punjab saw the worst floods since 1988 in August this year. Over 1,400 villages were submerged, causing mass displacement. Uttarakhand was hit by flash floods and landslides, displacing over 300 families. In Darjeeling, 18 people died in floods caused by heavy rains.

While that may be the case in one corner, in our *ooru*, July 2025 was the driest since July 2019, while May broke decades-old records with exceptionally heavy rains. The monsoon has behaved erratically, throwing tantrums that have surprised even seasoned meteorologists. Having lived in Bengaluru all my life, the city's changing seasons startle me — and, if I were to be honest, leave me wondering whether the next few decades of my life would be livable at all.

Storing climate trauma

These are valid fears, says Dr Mahima Sahi, a psychologist based in Chandigarh. "Eco-anxiety is broadly defined as the chronic fear or distress about environmental change and ecological disaster (as described by the APA, American Psychological Association)," she explains. And she's seeing more of that anxiety in her practice. She describes a "kind of restlessness and helplessness" in her sessions with adults from urban areas. "Many describe feeling 'off' because of erratic weather patterns or prolonged seasons, like the recent monsoon that threw routines off and forced untimely shifts in plans. Even when they don't use the word eco-anxiety, their bodies seem to express it," Dr Sahi says.

Studies show that individuals who are affected by anxiety over the climate may not just express it verbally, but also through somatic symptoms such as sleep disturbances, irritability, and loss of routine. Displacement and disruption can produce long-lasting changes, including PTSD or trauma. Scanning the news every day and seeing reports of one disaster or another can affect even the most stoic minds. We settle into a kind of numbness, which Snigdha also identifies with. "That numbness says a lot about how much collective trauma we've unconsciously stored," she agrees.

As a parent, Amrutha Prashanth, a content and communication head in Bengaluru, feels the same collective despair. "I am genuinely concerned about the kind of future we are creating for our next generation. The combination of increasing temperatures, irregular precipitation, and deteriorating air quality raises concerns about the environment my daughter and children, in general, will experience during their lifetimes."

Not all is lost

Her 10-year-old daughter may be part of today's Alpha generation and is already keenly aware of the environment. Like Sumit's daughter, Samiah, Aarna is passionate about nature and animals. "The sight of city pollution and animals suffering from heat, pollution, and habitat loss makes her feel deeply disturbed. She often tells us about plastic pollution in the oceans and how human actions harm animals; she worries about them more than about herself!" laughs Amrutha. Sumit says that Samiah does her best to "pick every snail and caterpillar she can" and gently place them on the side of the road in a flower bed. She knows that using public transport is better for the environment, and is aware of the ozone layer, melting glaciers, and transportation, he adds. And she is just seven!

Would this mean we should be hopeful? While the kids seem to be aware, what are we as adults doing? Prashanth Ranganath is 43, all high-octane energy, and bustling with ideas. There's so much to learn from young minds, he gushes. Prashanth views the Singapore model as one Bengaluru can also implement.

"Cities like Singapore have transformed through a combination of renewable energy adoption, efficient waste management, and strict environmental regulations, but more importantly, through a shared social mindset that values sustainability. Real change begins when citizens participate, not just when policies exist."

He's keen that young students take the lead by forming communities within their neighbourhoods and address issues proactively. Bengaluru has several Climate Action Clubs that involve youth in civic engagement activities. Citizen involvement in sustainability has been ramped up through the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP). This is a data-driven roadmap to achieve net-zero emissions and climate resilience for the city by 2050. Ambitious? Not for Ravin Nair, the managing director of an independent educational institute rating system in India. He brims with confidence that change is on the way, and it's not all climate change.

"In cities like Bengaluru, parents are increasingly drawn to institutions that demonstrate environmental responsibility. Students and their families want to know about green campus programs, energy consumption, and waste disposal systems when selecting a college. Younger students now define their school identity through sustainability because this value has shifted from a fashion statement to a necessity," he points out. Ravin says he personally practices environmental mindfulness by reducing his dependence on disposable plastic. "I work to align our organisational behaviour with sustainability through two initiatives: paperless operations and carbon offsetting for events," he adds.

Mahima Sahi

Prashanth Ranganath

Amrutha Prashanth

Jim Tharakan

Ravin Nair

A matter of privilege?

Art consultant Jim Tharakan feels that some of these initiatives are accessible only to the privileged. Like many old-time Bengalureans, he laments the city's change, but has made small changes for sustainable living. He is conscious about what he eats, reducing food consumption and using cold-pressed oils, for example. Tharakan advocates for active citizen commitment to mitigate climate anxiety. "Be involved in the many engagements that are in the interest of the world. Engage with them, get involved in some of the projects. Stay curious about what is possible, and get hands-on and get dirty with soil, air, water."

Snigdha struggles with this, however. She admits she has often been fooled by "greenwashing," a term for companies that tout eco-friendly products without actually practising sustainability. "I remember buying organic cotton clothing that would fall apart in three or four washes, and then wondering how sustainable it can be? What I do is limit consumption, reuse as much as I can, reduce packaged food and goods, buy local, avoid quick commerce unless essential, and now I go to the weekly bazaars for all the things that I need during the week."

Simple tweaks can help

Simple steps. But they can help. Small things like composting, reusing, and eating local can genuinely ease anxiety. Mahima agrees. "Eating local, for instance, not only supports sustainability but also aligns with what nutritional psychiatry tells us: that consuming fresh, local, and seasonal food can positively influence mood and gut-brain health. Similarly, composting or reusing fosters a tangible sense of contribution, which can genuinely reduce anxiety by giving people a sense of purpose and agency." Amrutha says that her daughter's school has started a 'Farm School' with terrace gardening, where the children and staff collectively grow vegetables that are later used in the school kitchen. On her part, she tries to buy pre-loved books and borrow books rather than buy them. These are the acts that give Dr Sahi hope.

Despite the many faces of humanity she sees every day through her practice, Dr Sahi believes that the world isn't doomed. "I deeply believe that every person has the capacity to improve and overcome, that growth and resilience are inherent human strengths," she observes. This is a world teetering on the edge of certainty, but perhaps we can find certainty in our resilience.

The climate may challenge us; Nature will protest, but our ability to adapt and to help each other will always remain our greatest strength.

India's eco innovators

1. **Recykal:** Digital platform for waste segregation, recycling, and the circular economy.
2. **Doodlage:** Upcycles textile waste into new fashion; circular collections and responsible sourcing.
3. **No Nasties:** Slow fashion brand using organic cotton and ethical manufacturing.
4. **CarbonCraft:** Produces building tiles from captured carbon emissions.
5. **Zerocircle:** Makes fully compostable, ocean-safe bioplastics from seaweed

MIXED BAG

'Mixed Bag' is your Sunday potpourri — an assortment of snappy articles, engaging ideas and snackable nibbles about this and that, from here and there. Dip in!

For glory or for salmon?

The champion competitive eater stood on a table in front of dozens of people and methodically attacked the salmon.

"We don't encourage forcing them to compete," the emcee said, in a two-acre exhibition hall in Bangkok's northern suburbs. "Let them be as normal as they can. We're having fun here."

But Kimmon — a mixed-breed cat — seemed to know exactly what his mission was. He did not stop until he had devoured all 15 grams (1 tablespoon) of the salmon treat that his owner had furiously squeezed from the pouch into his mouth.

His time: 49.42 seconds. His ranking: first. His prize: more food. "Speed eating is his thing," said Chutiwan Kusoljittakorn, Kimmon's owner and a pet content creator. "He usually has a grumpy face but lights up if there's food in front of him."

A cat competes in a speed-eating competition in Bangkok. NYT

Competitive eating is an increasingly popular sport for pets in Thailand. In Thai, it is known as "cat-licking," which evokes a decidedly different image. It is just one of the many pet competitions that pop up in Bangkok every few months. There have been contests for cats that look like cows, skateboarding dogs and orange-coloured cats. They are a testament to the country's growing pet industry, which the government has forecast to hit roughly $1.8 billion next year. Thailand, which was already one of the world's leading exporters of pet food, now has the biggest pet sector in Southeast Asia. Pet ownership has been rising in Thailand, as the birth rate has declined and the population is rapidly ageing.

Chutiwan said she did not train her animals to eat competitively. Her other cat, Dinogong, part sphynx and part stray, who was competing for the first time, came in second, gobbling down his treat in 50.4 seconds. The two felines went home with three bags of creamy mackerel treats. Kimmon's competition was part of the four-day Thailand International Pet Variety Exhibition. It brought out Boston terriers in sweater vests and Labrador puppies in unicorn sweaters, all wheeled around in strollers. There were dozens of booths selling wares like "innovative pet beds" and pilot costumes for dogs. There were raccoons, meerkats and skunks on display, catering to the growing demand for exotic pets. There was a climbing race for dogs and a weight-pulling competition for pit bulls.

NYT

Swifties swarm museum to see Ophelia painting

Taylor Swift fans sang and danced to her new hit "The Fate of Ophelia" at a German museum exhibiting a painting thought to have inspired the video for the chart-topper.

Some came as Ophelia, in white dresses with flowers in their hair, while others donned sparkly outfits like those often worn by Swift, as they descended on the western town of Wiesbaden. They were attending a special event to see the painting by artist Friedrich Heyser, which shows Ophelia, a character in Shakespeare's Hamlet, in a white dress floating in a river among flowers before her death.

Since the single's release last month, the Wiesbaden museum has been flooded with Swift fans seeking to get a glimpse of the work.

About 200 Swift fans flocked to the sold-out event, which started with a lecture from one of the museum's experts about the painting. "We were very surprised," museum director Andreas Henning told *AFP*.

AFP

A fan poses next to a banner outside the museum in Germany. AFP

FEEDBACK
Like this story? Write to us at **dhonsunday@deccanherald.co.in**

ASTROSPEAK

Guruji Shrii Arnav

Scan the QR code to read the ***weekly horoscope***

This is a rich, humane portrait of one woman's coming-of-age in tune with the humming, heart-throbbing machinery of a nation on rails, writes Sheila Kumar

Life amid the tracks

In the hustle and bustle of Indian railways, one gets to see several Indias exist together, writes the author. Seen here is the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai.

Railsong by Rahul Bhattacharya is a sweeping saga that combines personal narrative and social history while taking a fascinating deep dive into how the Indian Railways works. The beating heart of the story, however, is its indomitable main character, Charulata Chitol.

The story begins with Charu's family moving to a railway township, Bhombalpur. Charu's father works on the Light Machine Shop floor. It is 1961, and the census is being taken. Little Charu expresses an interest in counting. By the end, that is exactly what she will be doing as a government-appointed census-taker.

Rahul Bhattacharya. (PIC COURTESY: BLOOMSBURY)

RAILSONG
Rahul Bhattacharya
Bloomsbury, pp 402, Rs 799

Bhombalpur will shape the early parts of Charu's life. She will lose both her mother and grandmother, come of age and finally leave home at the age of 16. She will discover the world of books, and they will be her lifelong companion. External factors also affect her life, her family and the larger society they are part of. They will, unfortunately, experience drought and famine.

A countrywide railway strike will find its echo here. This will impact the Chitols, due to Charu's father's union activities, forcing them to go underground for a while. All of this will be the crucible in which Charu's character is forged. Infused with a strong streak of independence, daring and rebellion, she also has the clarity to choose the life she wants to lead.

Refusing to spend her life as a domestic drudge and spurred by her father's words to face her own struggles and battles to make something of herself, she does just that. She runs away from there to the city that was then called Bombay.

The next phase of her life unfolds in Bombay.

Much lies ahead for her there: an education she pursues in fits and starts, the ordeal of finding a place to stay and earn a living, and finally love. There will be men in her life, one of whom she will marry. It is refreshing how the author paints a picture of a woman who experiences and expresses sexual feelings, both outside the conventions of marriage and within. It never comes across as tawdry, even if the situations that Charu finds herself in sometimes are.

Most importantly, in her life coming full circle, when Charu's father dies, she manages to secure a job at the railways on compassionate grounds.

Her job in the railways, first as a personnel clerk and later as a welfare inspector, allows the author to give a fascinating insight into how the system works. An officer tells her it is the Indian Railways that makes India; a huge amount of people and goods are transported to different parts of the vast country at what can be considered reasonable rates; many challenges are faced and overcome.

The author's ode to the railways continues. We are told how the Indian Railways does not 'see' religion, caste, language, state or even weather. How the machinery of this huge behemoth is kept well-oiled and running by the large number of people who work in it. For those like Charu who do their job diligently, the challenges are many, but as the author shows, it is also a learning process, and an exposure to the many Indias which exist, and in Charu's case, an eye-opener laced with understanding and empathy. It is a triumph of Bhattacharya's writing that Charu's perspective becomes ours. There is humour braided cleverly into the story, which works to leaven the dense narrative.

This is a writer who has listened and observed the quirks of people. The wit is gentle, directing our gaze towards an unpleasant habit that some men have of scratching their nether regions, or the tics that some people use in talking, or even at an annoying trait of character in someone. And at times it is wry, as when Charu and her friend, who get a job that is advertised as 'smart girls required', are then referred to by that moniker.

In this character-driven story, it is not only Charu but others, too, who are sharply delineated. The cast of characters is huge, but even the ones who are minor are deftly drawn. Charu's father makes an impression. We can see how much Charu has inherited from him, a man of principles, wanting to shed conventions holding people back, who is against the caste system and a believer in the ideals of social justice. His humane outlook is reflected in his daughter. The sense of loneliness that often cloaks him does the same with Charu. He follows his own drum in how he conducts his life, as does his daughter.

We are carried effortlessly on the journey of Charu's life, and we find that the railsong speaks as much to us as it does to Charu. 'Literature, like water, leaves its mark,' says Charu's father. So does this illuminating book.

THAT ONE BOOK

A Greek classic full of good fun & bad taste!

Bawdy and irreverent, here is a tale that does not hesitate to challenge the authorities and satirise the power of the priests, writes Saudha Kasim

Recently, the Church of England named Sarah Mullally as the first woman Archbishop of Canterbury — a historic first for that position, which is more than a millennium old. For those who have watched the movie *Conclave* (2024) or followed the election of Pope Leo, there might have been a small germ of a question emerging in their minds: Will we, in the near future, get a woman as a Pope?

Even if that's unlikely to happen in real life anytime soon, there's always an apocryphal tale to fall back on to serve as fodder for the imagination: that of the so-called Pope Joan, who supposedly reigned as Pope John VIII for two years in the Middle Ages. There's no historical proof that a woman did indeed masquerade as the most powerful priest in Christendom. But that hasn't stopped writers through history from tackling the story and rewriting it as their own.

According to Lawrence Durrell (brother of Gerald, author of the famed The Alexandria Quartet), none of these has the "interest and freshness" of Greek author Emmanuel Royidis' *Papissa Joanna*. When it was first published in 1886, it was hugely controversial. The book was banned, and Royidis was excommunicated by the church. Proving that there's no such thing as bad publicity, the book was a bestseller across Europe (it was translated into various languages).

It's easy to see, reading Durrell's English translation and adaptation — titled *Pope Joan* — why Royidis' tale rubbed the authorities the wrong way. Bawdy and irreverent, Royidis uses his tale to satirise the power of the priests and clerics, but also, as Durrell noted, "...*Pope Joan* is a sort of brief record of the history and misfortunes of Eros after his transformation by Christianity from a God to an underground resistance movement."

The narrator of the story is Royidis himself, witty and gossipy, winking at the reader as he talks about the years of research involved in writing his book. But soon enough, we get to know of Joanna's humble (and not strictly legitimate) origins — her father was an English monk and her mother, Judith, "a goose-girl to a Baron". The family are picked up along with others and sent as missionaries to the Continent. There, Joanna loses one parent after another. Orphaned, she has visions of saints. She is given messages about her destiny (to either go to a nunnery or get married) — and she chooses to go to a convent.

Dame Sarah Mullally, the first woman to be named Archbishop of Canterbury. (PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

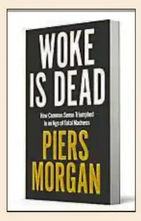
Joanna eventually reaches a convent where she bides her time for a while. She forms a deep romantic relationship with a monk, and they travel to Athens together with Joanna disguised as a man. Miracles are sought and wrought: Joanna, as John the monk, makes a name for herself as a theological scholar. The happy times don't last — as with any long relationship, there are fissures and jealousies, and soon "The sex and indiscretions of Joanna are no longer a secret. Perhaps some even began to look upon her as a monster sent by the Franks to swallow up the Orthodox Church."

Joanna leaves her lover behind in Athens and goes to Rome (still in disguise as John the Monk) and, through her own ability and some twists of fate, ascends to become Pope. As Durrell and Royidis emphasise, in that era, it was the people of Rome who elected the Pope, not a group of Bishops.

It's a short reign for Joanna, her fictional memory termed sacrilegious by the believers. It's a pathetic end to a picaresque tale, a romp through the kingdoms and great cities of the European Middle Ages. Royidis himself argued with his critics, who insisted that Joanna was a fictional figure. But in the end, what's true and what's fiction doesn't matter. The Greek intellectual George Katsimbalis brought Royidis' novel to Durrell's attention, calling it "a typical scamp of a book, a Greek book, full of good fun, bad taste, and laughter, and irreverence." And there can't be a higher recommendation to read *Pope Joan* than that.

That One Book *is a monthly column that does exactly what it says — it takes up one great classic and tells you why it is (still) great.*
The author is a writer and communications professional. She blogs at saudha.substack.com

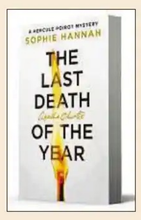
BOOKRACK



WOKE IS DEAD
Piers Morgan
Harper Collins, pp 320, Rs 400
The author charts the "spectacular collapse" of what he calls the most ridiculous ideology in human history. With his trademark wit and fearless honesty, he celebrates the 'heroes' who refused to surrender to the woke brigade.

STRANGE HOUSES
Uketsu and Jim Rion (translator)
Penguin, pp 208, Rs 599
Every house hides secrets. But some secrets are far darker than others. A sinister hidden room. A sealed cellar. A child's face glimpsed at a window...

THIS GARDEN OF WEEDS
V Sanjay Kumar
Bloomsbury, pp 288, Rs 599
Salil Gupta and his daughter Nupur belong to a Delhi business family that has no acquaintance with art. He wants to collect art, she wants to be a curator. But the art world is a walled garden...



THE LAST DEATH OF THE YEAR
Sophie Hannah
Harper Collins, pp 384, Rs 499
Hercule Poirot and his good friend Inspector Edward Catchpool arrive on the Greek island of Lamperos for a little holiday...or is it? Catchpool suspects Poirot has a different reason for being there.

MURDERLAND
Caroline Fraser
Hachette, pp 496, Rs 899
A propulsive non-fiction thriller, Murderland transcends true-crime voyeurism and noir mythology, taking readers on a profound quest into the dark heart of the real American berserk.

PIQUED

Monsters lurking within us all...

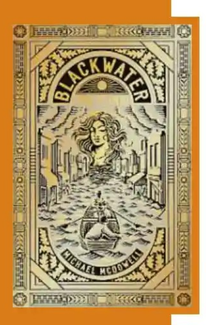
The best of horror fiction illuminates cultural anxieties and blends supernatural fears with relatable dangers, apart from giving us a good scare, writes Nirica Srinivasan

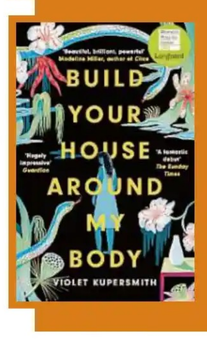
In his introduction to the Penguin Horror series, Guillermo Del Toro writes, "To learn what we fear is to learn who we are. Horror defines our boundaries and illuminates our souls." This is also true of society at large — horror can illuminate cultural anxieties, the fears and worries of a particular time and place. I thought back to some of my favourite horror books — ones that took me across the world and to different times, blending supernatural horrors with very real and relatable dangers, and, of course, all while giving me a good scare.

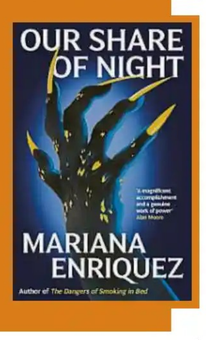
Mariana Enriquez's **Our Share of Night**, translated from Spanish by Megan McDowell, is such an ambitious book that it's hard to describe: it's about a cult in search of immortality, a father and son who have unique powers, and a mysterious darkness that lurks behind closed doors. The narrative moves backwards and forwards in time, as we meet new characters or meet the same ones at different points in their lives.

But aside from the supernatural, it's also the story of decades of Argentina's complicated history, set before and after the years of military dictatorship. In an interview with *The Guardian*, Enriquez said, "It's very difficult to write about Argentina using only realism." Instead, she uses the codes of horror to explore both real and imagined violence — deaths occur at the hands of mysterious forces, but the characters are also haunted by the victims of war and political power. It ends up not as a perfect political allegory, but rather an experiential map of a moment in time. Some of the descriptions of the darkness in Our Share of Night still haunt me, but so do the very real emotional journeys that these characters — who, after 600 pages, felt like friends — live through.

Michael McDowell's **Blackwater series** takes the form of an expansive Southern Gothic family saga. Written originally in the 80s and republished in six volumes by Penguin, this is the story of the Caskey family across five decades, living on the banks of the river in the town of Perdido, Alabama.







During a devastating flood, high up in a room slowly filling with water, Oscar Caskey finds a mysterious woman, Elinor, and is instantly enamoured. At times, Blackwater plays like a classic family drama, as Elinor clashes with Oscar's mother, the powerful Caskey matriarch, and the family grows older, richer, and more powerful. But behind it all lurks a mysterious horror, tied to Elinor and to the ever-present, ever-flowing river.

Much like Our Share of Night, Blackwater is difficult to slot into any one category. The series isn't perfect — the introduction to the republished books acknowledges, for example, Michael McDowell's backgrounding of characters of colour — but it is full of fascinating observations on patriarchy, marriage, parenthood, family dynamics (many characters are queer-coded, if not outrightly queer), mercy, and justice. The horror elements, which range from ghostly apparitions to indescribable creatures, are treated almost matter-of-factly, which makes it all the more chilling.

In Violet Kupersmith's **Build Your House Around My Body**, two women vanish across time — one in 1986, and the other in 2011. This is the story of these two interlinked disappearances, told across decades, as characters weave in and out of each other's storylines. Part mystery, part ghost story, and part feminist fable, it draws on decades of Vietnamese history and folklore. Kupersmith hints at connections between characters and places, which makes for a delightfully confounding puzzle-box of a novel, leaving much to the reader to draw strands together. In Build Your House, the horrors of colonialism, misogyny, class, and racism are on equal footing with monsters made of smoke, two-headed snakes, and shapeshifters.

Guillermo Del Toro writes of how leaning into the fantastic can 'make flesh' what would otherwise be metaphor or allegory." This means engaging with concepts on a real, bodily level — a fear represented as a vampire, or a ghost, or a cult in search of immortality. These stories live in the tension between the symbolic and the real, which means you can read them as metaphors, as ways to "learn who we are" — or just to give yourself fodder for your next nightmare.

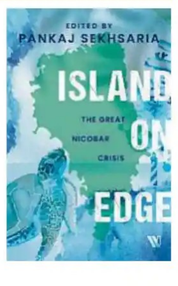
Piqued *is a monthly column in which the staff of Champaca Bookstore bring us unheard voices and stories from their shelves. The reviewer is a writer and illustrator.*

READ OF THE WEEK

An infrastructure mega project costing Rs 82,000 crore has been planned and given clearance to kick off on the Great Nicobar Island. The plan to build a transhipment terminal, airport, powerplant and an entirely new township comes at a great cost to an already fragile biodiversity, the culture of indigenous communities and even their languages. While authorities associated with it have tried their best to kick the project off the ground, they have failed to cover up the many legal and ethical blind spots that now threaten to put the project in murky waters.

Island on Edge follows up on The Great Nicobar Betrayal in an equally sharp and punchy fashion, covering new ground to investigate the pitfalls of the Great Nicobar mega project. This collection of articles presents research and data gathered about legal proceedings, diplomatic exchanges and on-ground realities on the Great Nicobar Island in a simple but in-depth manner. An urgent and astute study of this moment in Indian legal history, Island on Edge is a crucial addition to modern environmental thought.

Pankaj Sekhsaria is a long-term researcher of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. He has worked on issues there for over three decades and has authored and edited seven books on the islands.



HE SAID/ SHE SAID *Indu Balachandran*

Yours faithfully?

The story is told of a restless, troubled woman, seeking divine answers and peace of mind, who travelled miles and miles to a remote mountain ashram and asked His Holiness, a revered guru: What is the meaning of life? To which he replied: Have you tried googling it?

Today, despite blessings and salvation from god's angels readily available on a screen in our own homes, millions of us continue to flock in person to sacred cities and mystic mountains, holy trees and healing rivers — seeking guidance, healing, or just plain peace. Religion, despite the pithy slogan, 'God is everywhere' created by its ad agency, still drives people to get out there, often enduring great hardships and expense, to physically stand in the presence of god, or rather some human representation of the divine.

'Help centre'

Religion has been our go-to help centre ever since childhood, as its leaders hold powerful portfolios — one with an elephant head to remove obstacles, one with a third eye to destroy evil, one on a lotus to help pass exams, one on the cross to help you bear your own, one who is a divine prophet and messenger, one whose calmness leads to enlightenment, to name just a few.

Religion often requires splashes of water on heads, smearing of ash on foreheads, counting of a specific number of beads, abstinence from certain foods, and singing bhajans, dancing in a trance. It requires meticulous attention to rituals, like when to step out with your right leg, and how many coconuts to break.

But it's a curious fact that this human form/spokesperson of god before us orchestrating rituals — is way more likely to be a male, no matter what the faith, anywhere in the world. Yet it is women who keep up religious traditions and perform these elaborate rituals. Women everywhere are most likely to be praying devoutly for the health of parents, the exam results of children, the test results of their mammograms, and (at least once a year) the prolonged life of husbands — even if they just had a huge argument with the spouse — after sighting the moon on the day of Karva Chauth. Men are most likely negotiating a divine outcome to a business deal coming up.

This worldwide stereotyping of gender roles, wherein male gurus usually lead and women believers generally follow, is easily explained as one more off-shoot of patriarchy; societal biases view male leadership traits more favourably even in religion. Despite the presence of powerful women saints, we're not likely to hear of women at the highest positions easily.

Religion's cooler cousin

While religion has had many disillusioned dropouts amongst genders, thanks largely to pointless wars between nations of differing faith, being spiritual has certainly become the cooler thing to be, no matter what one's gender. Corporate heads quote sufi master and poet Rumi at board meetings, Bollywood stars flock to godmen and women, influencing millions of their own fans to follow the more glamorous 'spiritual' path.

To many, religion and spirituality are just different words to get an understanding of the the higher power, the celestial omnipresent. But if you, man or woman, are still trying to figure out: "Am I religious? Or am I spiritual?" Here's a ready reckoner: Religion is praying for rain. But spirituality is bringing an umbrella.

(He Said/She Said is a monthly column on gender issues — funny side up. Reach the author at indubee8@yahoo.co.in)

Amid shrinking protections and pushback, the Andhra Pradesh High Court's ruling earlier this year affirming that trans women are women is a principled and progressive one, writes Kanav Narayan Sahgal

UNPACKING transgender rights

ENGENDERED

"Can you provide a definition for the word 'woman'?"

When Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn asked the then–DC Circuit Court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson this question at her confirmation hearing for a seat on the United States Supreme Court in 2022, Jackson replied (with some hesitation), "I am not a biologist."

This should come as no surprise, for this very question has long preoccupied scholars, lawyers, writers, philosophers, activists, and lawmakers alike. Early thinkers like Aristotle and Plato viewed women as inherently inferior to men, relying on naturalist assumptions about their supposed incapacity for reason or leadership. Simone de Beauvoir challenged these assumptions in her magnum opus, *The Second Sex*, arguing that distinctions between the sexes were socially—rather than naturally—constructed. Yet like many early feminist theorists, she conceptualised gender within a limited binary framework.

Gender not fixed or innate

Scholarship on queer and non-binary identities emerged relatively later, with Judith Butler's work on gender performativity standing out as especially influential. In the book, 'Gender Trouble', Butler demonstrated that gender was neither innate nor fixed, but rather something enacted—a series of repeated performances shaped by social norms and expectations.

And yet, naturalist conceptions about gender persist in contemporary political thought. In April 2025, the UK Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling that held that the term "woman" in the Equality Act 2010 did not include transgender women. This ruling followed Donald Trump's second presidential victory, during which attacks on the transgender community became both frequent and central to the Republican Party's platform.

In January 2025, just hours into his first day back in office, President Trump signed an executive order declaring it official US policy to recognise "only two sexes, male and female," further asserting that these sexes were fixed, immutable, and "grounded in fundamental and incontrovertible reality."

What do these developments tell us? They show that in many parts of the West, transgender people continue to be excluded—either by omission or active resistance—from legal and policy frameworks meant to otherwise include them. Even in Canada and the EU, backlash is growing: public opinion on transgender rights is divided in Canada too, while far-right movements in the EU continue to frame gender diversity as a threat to national identity. What we're witnessing, therefore, is not hesitation, but a deliberate global rollback of hard-won LGBTQ+ rights.

India's principled stance

In this broader context of shrinking protections and rising hostility, India's jurisprudence on transgender rights stands out as surprisingly principled. In 2014, the Supreme Court of India formally recognised the "third gender" as a distinct legal category and unequivocally affirmed transgender individuals' right to self-identify their gender, along with their entitlement to full constitutional rights.

More recently, in Viswanathan Krishna Murthy v State of Andhra Pradesh, the Andhra Pradesh High Court held that transgender women in heterosexual marriages could be legally recognised as "women" for the purposes of invoking protections under laws that traditionally apply only to cisgender women; a position that stands in stark contrast to the view taken by the UK Supreme Court months earlier.

Interestingly, the Andhra Pradesh High Court arrived at this conclusion by relying on the Supreme Court of India's 2023 marriage equality ruling, which denied same-sex couples the right to marry yet affirmed transgender individuals' right to enter heterosexual marriages. Holding that denying a transgender woman legal status as a "woman" under Section 498-A of the IPC based on her reproductive capacity is discriminatory, the Court said: "Such a contention, therefore, deserves to be rejected at the outset."

To be clear, transgender people in India continue to face challenges with the law. For instance, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, India's primary legislation governing transgender rights at the national level, still subjects transgender individuals to a burdensome bureaucratic certification process in direct violation of the Supreme Court of India's 2014 ruling, which affirmed transgender people's right to self-identify their own gender. Petitions challenging these and other provisions have yet to be heard by the Supreme Court.

Despite that, in a global political climate where transgender rights are being rolled back at a disheartening pace, it is encouraging to see judgments like Viswanathan Krishna Murthy affirm transgender people's dignity and right to equality. As the law tightens its noose around transgender lives, one can only hope that lawmakers and judges listen with greater intent and empathy to the plurality of gendered experiences. As Simone de Beauvoir once wrote, "I am a woman; on this truth must be based all further discussion" — may we take this as an opening to defend our freedom to define ourselves beyond imposed categories.

In 2014, the SC upheld transgender individuals' right to self-identify their gender. (REPRESENTATION PIC)

(The author is a communications manager at Nyaaya, the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and can be reached at sahgalkanav@gmail.com)

Step into the delightful world of botanical gardens and marvel at the breathtaking floral diversity. Pallavi Mehra curates a list of the finest, spanning the United States, Australia, Dubai, and Switzerland

Beyond GARDEN VARIETY

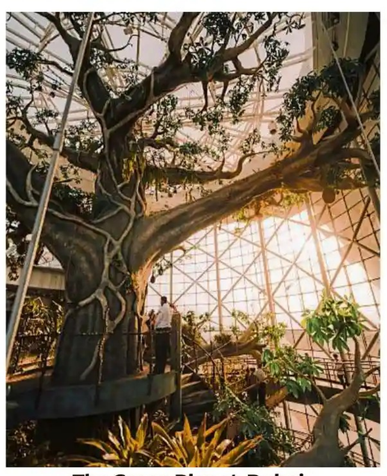
Nature therapy, also known as ecotherapy or forest bathing (shinrin-yoku), offers a powerful antidote to modern stresses, promoting well-being, minimising anxiety, and improving mood through immersive experiences in natural environments. And what better place to find this profound connection than within the meticulously curated beauty of the world's finest botanical gardens? Bookmark these gardens for your next international trip.

Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Located in San Marino, the Los Angeles region of Southern California, the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens is a one-of-a-kind cultural institution offering a distinctive blend of art, nature, and knowledge. The Huntington's botanical gardens, spanning over 130 acres, are not to be missed. Each garden has a unique theme, transporting guests to different parts of the world. The Japanese Garden with its tranquil koi ponds and moon bridge, and the Chinese Garden (Liu Fang Yuan), one of the biggest classical Chinese gardens outside of China, are particularly noteworthy.

The Huntington Botanical Gardens. PIC COURTESY: EDIE TYEBKHAN/VISIT PASADENA

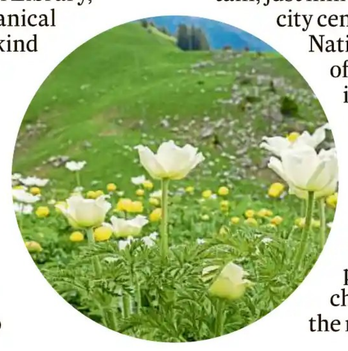
The Desert Garden is another highlight, featuring one of the world's most extensive collections of cacti and succulents. Moreover, don't miss the beautiful Rose Garden and the elegant high tea service at the Rose Garden Tea Room, which includes a selection of teas, seasonal house-made scones, and a range of delectable savoury and sweet treats.



The Green Planet, Dubai . (PIC COURTESY: DUBAI TOURISM)

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Situated at the foot of Black Mountain, just minutes from Canberra's city centre, the Australian National Botanic Gardens offers a serene escape into the heart of the country's natural ecosystem. Housing more than 4,300 native plant species across 35 hectares, the botanic gardens provides visitors a chance to experience the rich diversity of Australian flora. Guests can stroll through beautifully curated landscapes, join free guided walks, or hop aboard the Flora Explorer, an open-air electric bus tour to hear stories about Australia's indigenous plants. Visitors can also visit the Jindii EcoSpa, situated within botanical gardens, which offers a range of soothing treatments, using locally sourced ingredients to help guests reconnect with nature and themselves.



Alpine flowers at Switzerland's Schynige Platte.

New Orleans Botanical Garden

Home to over 2,000 varieties of plants from around the world, the New Orleans Botanical Garden is a 10-acre sanctuary within City Park. Featuring several themed sections, it houses an inviting bamboo-forested Japanese Garden, a historic Rose Garden, and even a conservatory with tropical plants and living fossils. The Helis Foundation Enrique Alférez Sculpture Garden exhibits the work of the artist who helped shape the garden's original vision. The historic New Orleans Train Garden, with its delicate model trains weaving through miniature depictions of the city, provides a fun glimpse of the city's history.

Also located within the botanical garden is the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA), which is the city's oldest fine arts institution that contains a diverse collection of contemporary art, age-old artefacts, and travelling exhibitions. Visitors can explore the botanical garden by biking on the cycling trails or go horseback riding at the 27-acre Equest Farm. They can also take disc golf courses or enjoy the garden's waterways with pedal boats, kayaks, canoes, or swan boats.

Schynige Platte Alpine Garden

Encompassed by the majestic peaks of the Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau mountains, the Schynige Platte Alpine Garden provides a unique peek into Switzerland's high-altitude flora. The garden features more than 600 plant species that thrive above the treeline, representing nearly two-thirds of the country's Alpine flora. Guests can take an easy, picturesque stroll along a one-kilometre trail with gentle ascents and descents, uncovering rare and vibrant plants in their natural habitat. The garden's labels and signs are informative and educational, perfect for nature lovers wanting to learn about the region's rich natural beauty.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Founded in 1926, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was the first botanic garden in the United States to focus exclusively on native plants. Spread across 78 acres of sloping foothills in the Mission Canyon neighborhood above Santa Barbara, the garden offers not only stunning beds of native plants but 5.5 miles of trails where more than a thousand California plant species are showcased. Native plants are exhibited in different growing zones, including desert, island, and chaparral habitats, as well as a serene redwood forest.

Next year, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden will celebrate its centennial. To mark the milestone, the garden will be incorporating centennial celebrations, its programming, including the annual Beer Garden event in March timed with the anniversary, a spring planting weekend in April to coincide with Native Plant Month, and special centennial editions of the garden's magazine—Ironwood, which will showcase the garden's history and look ahead to the next 100 years.

The Green Planet

Located within a glass biodome in City Walk, the Green Planet is home to over 3,000 species of plants, birds, and animals. The biodome is a carefully controlled ecosystem that mirrors the temperature, humidity, and density of a real rainforest. Green Planet Dubai has been conceptualized across four ecological levels—the Canopy, Midstory, Forest Floor, and Flooded Rainforest. The botanical garden aims to educate guests of all ages about the layered structure of tropical forests and their important role in the Earth's ecosystem.

The Green Planet also houses a diverse collection of animals, including sloths, flying foxes, toucans, anacondas, and insects. Additionally, guests can book immersive experiences such as playing zookeeper for a day, picnicking in the rainforest, or swimming with piranhas.

New Orleans Botanical Garden. (PIC COURTESY: VISIT LOUISIANA)

DO'S & DON'TS

Keep these best practices in mind when you visit any botanical gardens across the world:

Do's

- Stay on earmarked paths or walkways.
- Wear good walking shoes, as you may have to do a fair bit of walking in large gardens.
- Look for designated bins to deposit any trash.
- Stay hydrated; carry sun protection.
- Carry bug spray and any anti-allergic medication, if you are allergic to pollen, for example.

Don'ts

- Avoid plucking flowers or leaves.
- Resist feeding birds or other animals in the gardens, unless there are specific spots/ programmes organised by garden authorities.
- Don't stray or let children wander off towards water bodies.
- Sometimes, gardens block off certain areas for restoration, and there is a reason they put up signage; don't step into those areas.

(**Do's & Don'ts** *tells you what to keep in mind and what to steer clear of, while heading to a particular destination.)*

The EAT IS ON!

In the middle of a frenzied election season, Anurag Mallick and Priya Ganapathy give you not just a taste of Patna's iconic food stalls but also share stories around each one of them

Come elections in Bihar, and reporters and politicians rediscover their appetite for the state's cuisine, making a beeline to local eateries or sweet shops to check the political barometer. Bihar is broadly divided into five sub-regions – Magadh (Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Arwal and Gaya, south of ancient Pataliputra or Patna) where Magahi is spoken, Shahabad (Bhojpur, Buxar, Rohtas and Kaimur to the west bordering Uttar Pradesh) dominated by Bhojpuri, Mithila the cultural heart of Bihar to the north bordering Nepal where Maithili is spoken, Kosi-Seemanchal in the northeast border through which the Kosi river flows and Tirhut comprising Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Sitamarhi and Vaishali.

In capital Patna, the 70-year-old 'Chourasiya ji ki purani litti dukaan' near the railway station is a landmark and perhaps the only litti shop in town set on a terrace. Owner Ajay Kumar Chourasiya recalls how during his father Govind Prasad Chourasiya's time, political stalwarts like Lalu Prasad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Ram Vilas Paswan frequented the place as student leaders. During elections, journalists too make a pitstop here. Food experts like Vinod Dua, Rocky and Mayur, and several actors and politicians have visited the place, yet, there are no celebrity photos on the walls! Ajay Chourasiya says, "To me, every customer is Amitabh Bachchan!"

Kachoris; kebab (top right); chicken curry (top left).

Fish curry. PICS BY AUTHORS

On the ground floor is another gem. In the 1950s, Kishore Kumar Chourasiya sold chandrakala and samosas at his tiny shop which prospered for decades without a name! His son, Dheeraj Kumar, revealed how people often described their chandrakala as A-1, meaning top class in local parlance, and the name stuck. They settled on 'A1 Chandrakala' for food delivery platforms!

SALT & PEPPER

Piping hot kachoris

Near Patna Sahib, 'Late Nandu Lal Kachoriwale' serves piping hot kachoris fried in mustard oil with kale chane ki sabji. Established in 1930 by father-son duo Munni Lal and Nandu Lal Chandrawanshi, the shop attracts locals through the day. Their coveted aloo dum and pyajis (onion fritter) are available from 3:30 pm. Right next door, 'Tandon Jalpan' serves parval mithai, an unusual pointed gourd sweet with khoa filling. Every morning, Shyam Tandon hawks kachori-sabji and jalebi outside their new shop near Chowk Shikarpur flyover.

Down Kachauri Gali, 'Suraj Gupta & Mahadev Gupta Khurchan Mithai Dukan' have been whipping out khurchan for nearly a century. Fifth generation owner Krishna Gupta says his great grandfather Dwarika Prasad Gupta began the tradition of making khurchan by reducing milk and stacking layers of malai. They deal mostly in dry sweets sans chhena that doesn't need refrigeration. Patrons have taken their sweets overseas to Singapore, Japan, USA and Canada. From local MLA Nand Kishore Yadav to well known names like Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shatrughan Sinha, Ashish Vidyarthi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi in 2015, many have visited this tiny bylane.

'Mirchu Hotel', a century-old shop serving mutton and fish dishes, started by Mirchu Sav is now run by his grandson, Rakesh Kumar Sav, who personally oversees the butchering of khassi (goat) and grinding of masalas. Be it chicken curry, mutton curry, keema kaleji or tiger prawns made with posto (poppy seeds), each gravy tastes different. Patronised by High Court judges and ministers, story has it that during cricket matches, when Sunil Gavaskar stayed at 'Hotel Maurya', food was packed for him from 'Mirchu Hotel'!

'Mahngu Hotel' is perhaps the most iconic eatery in Patna. Set up 150 years ago by Mahngu Ram, their specialty is Bihari kebab – thin slices of marinated meat skewered tightly, roasted on coals and finished with ghee. It tastes like boneless mutton barra and is served with dahi mirch chutney and onion. Apart from mutton curry, fish curry, liver, prawns and egg curry, they serve goli kebab (chana dal-meat balls) and mutton stew in the evening besides winter specials like bagheri (Indian bushlark) and chaha (common snipe). Don't be fooled by its humble exterior. Famous personalities like former CM Jagannath Mishra, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, former FM Yashwant Sinha and Sunil Gavaskar have patronised Mahngu. As a student in BN College, Lalu Yadav would eat here and later as CM, he would often stop his cavalcade for takeaways of chaha-bater and mutton!

Something sweet

Around 25 km west of Patna, on the banks of the Sone river, Maner is legendary for its fine-grained boondi laddus. The distinct taste is attributed to the meetha pani or sweet groundwater used for preparing the besan batter.

Even today, all the sweets are supplied from their Saguna More outlet to other branches across the city. Movie stars Raza Murad, Nirahua and Neetu Chandra are big fans. While driving to Varanasi, Aamir Khan made a pitstop here with Imtiaz Ali. During the 2024 general elections, demand skyrocketed after Prime Minister Modi asked people to be ready with Maner laddus on counting day. Irrespective of what the polls have in store, head to Patna for the real taste of Bihar, instead of being content with customary sweets like thekua for Chhatth or pidukiya/gujiya for Holi.

Litti at a food stall.

(The authors are travel/food writers and culinary consultants "loosely based" in Bengaluru. They customise solutions for the hospitality industry, have authored guides and coffee table books, curated TV shows, set up an award-winning restaurant and are working on a book on heritage eateries of India. Follow their adventures on Instagram: @red_scarab)

ORIGIN STORY

Legacy of the NAWABS

Lucknow has just made its entry into the Unesco list as 'Creative City of Gastronomy' and the spotlight, it seems, is now on Lucknowi cuisine. Think Lucknow and you invariably think of its kebabs, among, of course, its range of other celebrated dishes.

The galouti kebab is one of the most sought after variety, when it comes to Nawabi cusine.

This kebab variety gets its name from the Urdu word, 'galawat' or 'galouti' which means tender or melt-in-the-mouth soft meat – the galouti kebab has such a soft texture (made softer by a fine raw papaya paste) that you'd hardly need to chew it.

Galouti kebab at a Lucknow food stall.

The origin story of this kebab comes from a story pertaining to Nawab Wazir Asaf ud Daula of 18th century Lucknow. Legend has it that the old Nawab so dearly loved kebabs made of meat that the chefs in the royal household invented this dish so he could enjoy his favourite food with having to chew it. Although this is the most widely known origin story of the galouti kebab, some versions credit the origin to Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. There is however a distinction to be made between galouti and tunday kebab aka tunde ke kebab – the latter is an even more finely ground mutton patty. Another story attributes the origin of tunde ke kebab to a one armed chef named Murad, who made kebabs famous all over Lucknow. No matter what the story of Lucknowi kebabs, the cuisine definitely owes a lot of its origin to the Nawabs of the city. According to the book, 'Culinary History of the Gangetic Plains' by Dr Anshumali Pandey, kebabs were originally simply pieces of meat roasted on fire, called boti kebabs, but were later improvised and made into galouti and other kinds of kebabs, like shami or kakori.

(**Origin Story** *attempts to satiate your curiosity about the history of a certain ingredient or dish.)*

Cracking the diabetes code

What does HbA1c mean? What's glycemic index all about? Ahead of World Diabetes Day on November 14, Jayashree Bafna offers a primer on the metabolic condition

GLYCEMIC INDEX

- **Low GI (55 or less):** Whole moong, rajma, chana, brown rice, guava, orange
- **Medium GI (56 to 69):** Sweet potato, poha, papaya, beetroot, semolina, red rice
- **High GI (70 or more):** White rice, maida-based items, potato, sago, corn flakes, rice flakes

Diabetes mellitus has emerged as one of the defining health challenges of the 21st century. According to the International Diabetes Federation 2024, India is home to over 80 million people with diabetes representing nearly 17 per cent of the global burden making India the 'diabetes capital of the world'.

Diabetes is a chronic metabolic disorder marked by persistently high blood glucose levels. The two major forms, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, differ in cause but share the same outcome: impaired insulin function.

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas.

Type 2 diabetes which accounts for nearly 90-95 per cent of all cases begins with insulin resistance when the body's cells don't respond properly to insulin.

Over time, this leads to elevated blood sugar levels. Insulin resistance often develops years before diabetes is diagnosed and is strongly linked to excess visceral fat, poor sleep, chronic stress and diets high in refined carbohydrates.

Early signs

Type 2 diabetes develops silently over years. Being overweight, especially around the abdomen, dark velvety patches on the neck or armpits, slow wound healing, frequent urination and increased thirst may indicate higher risk.

Individuals above 35 years, those with a family history of diabetes, low physical activity, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or a history of gestational diabetes should consult healthcare professionals for screening.

Diabetes is more than just high sugar

The impact of diabetes is far more than elevated blood sugar. Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death among those with diabetes. Many develop kidney failure, nerve damage or vision loss. The disease is also a leading cause of lower limb amputations and end-stage renal disease requiring dialysis or transplant.

GI and dietary habits

Dietary habits are important modifiable risk factors for type 2 diabetes mellitus.

A growing body of research supports low-glycemic index (GI) eating patterns which emphasize slowly digestible carbohydrates to reduce blood sugar spikes and improve insulin sensitivity.

The glycemic index (GI) is a scale that ranks a carbohydrate-containing food or drink by how fast it raises blood sugar levels after a set amount is eaten. Foods with a high GI tend to increase blood sugar faster than foods with a low GI. Even low GI foods can raise blood sugar if consumed in large portions – portion control still matters.

New insights beyond glycemic index

- Resistant starch found in legumes, green banana, potatoes and rice that are cooked and cooled resist digestion in the small intestine and ferments in the colon forming beneficial short-chain fatty acids. Studies show it improves insulin sensitivity and reduces post-meal glucose.
- Emerging research including recent Indian studies from AIIMS has shown that optimal vitamin D levels may improve insulin sensitivity and help manage blood glucose.
- Dietary AGEs (advanced glycation end product) are compounds formed in foods during deep-frying; broiling, roasting, baking, and grilling can promote inflammation and oxidative stress, worsening insulin resistance.
- Foods highest in AGEs include meat (especially red meat), fried egg, margarine, mayonnaise. Fried foods and highly processed products contain high levels. A low-AGE diet that emphasises steaming, boiling and minimal frying has shown improved insulin sensitivity in overweight Asian Indian adults.

GLYCATED HAEMOGLOBIN (HBA1C) TEST

Glycated haemoglobin test, also known as HbA1c test, is useful in early identification of diabetes. The test results give you a picture of your average blood glucose level over a two-to-three-month timeframe. A value of 6.5 per cent and above indicates diabetes while 5.7-6.4 per cent suggests prediabetes, a critical window where diet and lifestyle changes can reverse the condition.

Another useful marker, HOMA-IR test (homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance) helps assess how responsive your cells are to insulin. Interpretation should be done with a doctor.

Don't press the panic button

Prediabetes and type 2 diabetes isn't a reason to panic; it's a reason to act. Balanced nutrition, portion control, regular physical activity, adequate sleep and stress management form the foundation of diabetes prevention and care.

Avoid quick fixes or miracle foods. Adopt a diet that aligns with regional and cultural preferences. Ultimately, moderation and long-term sustainability are crucial for the effective prevention and management of diabetes.

(The author is a consultant dietician and diabetes educator.)

Fatty liver disease, a growing concern

RISHALI YADAV

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) has emerged as a key public health threat in India. According to surgical and gastroenterology professor and HOD at a Patna hospital Dr Manish Mandal, "India has over 40 million hepatitis B patients and nearly 12 million chronically infected with hepatitis C. The prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease among adults is approximately 38.6 per cent. According to WHO data published in 2020, liver disease was responsible for 2,68,580 deaths in India, accounting for 3.17 per cent of all deaths.

Dr Mandal notes that liver diseases in India are on the rise, with NAFLD becoming a major concern due to increasing obesity and diabetes. Hepatitis B and C remain significant public health issues, with high rates of chronic infections.

Liver cancer is also growing, largely linked to chronic hepatitis B and C infections, he adds.

Metabolic disorders

Dr Shiv K Sarin, gastroenterology and hepatology expert, who is also a chancellor at Delhi's liver and biliary sciences institute, points out that while NAFLD is strongly associated with metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes, Indians, even those with normal body mass index (BMI), often have higher levels of visceral fat compared to Europeans or Americans.

On the ongoing research in India pertaining to treatment of NAFLD, which is now referred to as metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) he said, "It is increasingly focusing on lifestyle changes, early diagnosis, and the management of related metabolic conditions."

The expert sounds a note of caution when he says that while there is no doubt about the availability and efficacy of medications based on active ingredients like semaglutide and tirzepatide in India, these should be used in only specific group of patients, and are expensive.

Focusing on the potential role of therapies and treatment, Dr Sarin says, "Stem cell therapy is becoming an important option for treating liver diseases, especially alcoholic liver disease. In India it is gaining attention as a promising way to improve recovery and reduce the need for liver transplants. Stem cells can stimulate other liver cells to repair damaged tissue and even support liver regeneration."

Fatty liver complications

NAFLD, especially in its more advanced form (nonalcoholic steatohepatitis or NASH), leads to several serious health conditions including both liver-related and non-liver-related diseases such as:

- **Liver fibrosis:** Scarring of the liver tissue
- **Cirrhosis:** Advanced liver scarring that can impair liver function
- **Liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma):** increased risk, especially in those with cirrhosis and liver failure
- **End-stage liver disease:** The liver no longer functions properly and can lead to mortality

The most common stem cell therapy uses mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs). These can be obtained from the bone marrow or the umbilical cord. These cells can be given through peripheral vein or directly to the liver.

Dr Sarin explains that early detection and raising awareness are key to effective management of liver disease.

In the absence of timely intervention, these silent conditions can progress and cause serious liver damage.

An early diagnosis enables prompt treatment, which can slow or even stop disease progression, reducing the risk of advanced complications such as the need for liver transplantation, he adds.

EYE ON DESIGN

Bark bench

A suspended swing inspired by a tree bark.

When art is dictated by nature's patterns

Wicker is back to being in demand because of its naturally zero-waste approach and its ability to meld both modernity and heritage, writes Sowmya Putran

In a world where planet-friendly design is the new standard, the works of Priyanka Narula let nature itself dictate the design, celebrating its forms and patterns. Each whimsical piece is made with age-old wickercraft, following a zero-waste approach, a nod to both the environment and heritage.

This philosophy comes to life in The Flowering Vines, a light installation that mimics a flower. The piece is modular and scalable. It can exist as a single petal or blossom, or be designed into a larger, interconnected composition, symbolising nature's growth patterns. Its modular design makes it feel responsive to the space it lights up. Just as a flower unfolds in repeating petals and a plant grows in stages, the installation follows this natural flow, its light spilling across the space as softly as sunlight on petals.

The Flowering Vines, a light installation that mimics a flower.

This natural flow carries into the Pagdandi Wall Unit, where curves and twists create the feel of wandering away, offering a quiet retreat from our busy lives. Picture following a winding path through a forest; the design reflects this movement. Its meandering forms are inspired by the way rivers flow and forests wind, while the ledges and surfaces become moments of pause, where one could sit, like finding a log along the path. The shelving areas resemble pockets of land formed by the river, creating pauses and rhythm as you move along. Just as the movement of a river or a forest path is never contained in a small area, it keeps going. Similarly, the meandering pathways of the design adapt to the space; they can be scaled up or down.

Hues of the horizon

The studio's early work stayed in monochromes, letting craft and material take the spotlight. Over time, they began exploring colour, driven by a desire to connect with India's rich heritage, where colour plays a key role. This pursuit led to the Dawn to Dusk lamp, their first wicker experiment with colour, capturing the sky's changing light in layered hues. "My morning and evening walks were my go-to for peace on a busy day. We wanted the palette to evoke that same calm," Priyanka shares.

While watching the sky, they noticed that sunrise and sunset are not made of one colour. They change gradually, and each stage creates a different feeling. The first samples used seven to eight colours like black, maroon, red, orange, yellow and a few neutral shades. When layered together, they looked like a landscape painting. Each section of the lamp is inspired by a different setting. The sunrise section uses pale and soft colours, the sunset section uses warm and intense colours. The desert evening section shifts to monochrome tones, reflecting the sun-baked colours of desert landscapes.

The language of trees

The Dawn to Dusk lamp offers a visual experience of the sky, while the Bark Bench invites touch as much as it draws the eye. It's inspired by the simple act of finding a fallen tree and sitting on it. Its twisting form reflects how a tree grows and bends over time. Each curve and surface invites people to linger and feel the texture. The colours follow its lifecycle: the base is dark, almost black like fungus, and slowly lightens toward the top. The seating area stays muted and natural, while the top is dry and pale. Despite its twists, the bench is comfortable and ergonomic, showing how old-school craft and modern design can work together to create pieces that feel like artefacts yet serve everyday use.

Similar to the bench, the Bark Jhula uses bark-like textures and colours and creates a sense of pause within movement. While the bench invites a moment of rest during a walk, the Jhula (swing) gives that same feeling while you sway. Priyanka describes this piece as a sculpture in motion. The swing recalls childhood memories of swings in parks and homes. The idea was to evoke the same tactile joy of sitting on a classic tyre swing. "Its basic circular form keeps that DIY spirit, and when you sit on it, it holds its shape and feels secure," she notes.

Traditionally, basketry belonged to kitchens and corners, holding fruits or laundry. In these works, it takes on a new identity. Each piece is treated as a body made of a skeleton and skin. The skin remains basketry, and the skeleton can be cane, board or metal. That small addition opens up new possibilities, allowing the craft to move from household objects to furniture and sculptural forms. This approach comes from a simple belief: a craft must grow to stay alive. If it stays fixed in its past, it fades quietly. By giving basketry new roles, these works keep their legacy evolving rather than being preserved and outdated.

A lamp that showcases the shifting hues of the sun's movement.

MUSEUM MATTERS

A capital crammed with curiosities

Washington DC is a city overflowing with stories waiting to be found, with most of its museums free to access and bursting with fascinating treasures, says Neha Kirpal

The Spy Museum.

A recent trip to Washington DC brought me face-to-face with some of the world's most spectacular museums. One of the city's greatest gifts is accessibility — most museums are free, opening their doors wide to anyone with curiosity and a few free hours. From art and science to espionage and natural history, the American capital spoils you for choice.

A good way to begin exploring is with a hop-on, hop-off tour around the National Mall. The circuit threads through the city's most iconic monuments — the Washington Monument, the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the US Capitol and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial — while also halting at several of the Smithsonian museums that form DC's beating cultural heart.

Among these, one of the most fascinating museums I visited was the **International Spy Museum** — the only one of its kind in the US. It offers a riveting, immersive look into the shadowy world of espionage, from Cold War cloak-and-dagger missions to modern cyber intelligence. The museum documents not only the tradecraft and gadgets but also the human drama behind secret operations that have shaped world history. Its collection — the largest of spy artefacts anywhere — includes lipstick pistols, pigeon cameras, concealed weapons and even an Aston Martin from a James Bond film. Through gripping first-person accounts by intelligence officers and historians, the museum connects DC's long history as a spy capital with stories from around the globe. Interactive games let visitors test their own "spy skills," adding a dash of adventure for kids and adults alike.

A close second was the **National Museum of African American History and Culture**, the world's largest institution dedicated to African American life, history and culture. The museum unfolds the entire arc of the African American experience — from the harrowing era of slavery and freedom (1400–1877), through segregation (1876–1968), to the modern day. The exhibits are deeply moving, telling stories of struggle, resilience and triumph. I was particularly drawn to the galleries on pop culture — chronicling the influence of African Americans in music, film, sports and beyond.

Then there's the **National Gallery of Art**, a personal favourite and a serene world of beauty. Housing nearly 141,000 works — from European masterpieces

The National Museum of African American History with the Washington Monument in the background.

of the 13th to 20th centuries to American art of the early 1900s — the museum is a grand conversation across time. One of its crown jewels is Leonardo da Vinci's Ginevra de' Benci, the only painting by the artist in the Americas. Other highlights include the Kaufman Collection of American furniture, decorative arts, modern and contemporary works, as well as rotating displays of prints, drawings and rare books. Outside, the Sculpture Garden provides a peaceful open-air gallery dotted with monumental modern art — the perfect spot for a reflective pause.

Equally unmissable is the **National Museum of American History**, which traces the country's journey from colonial times to the present. As the United States prepares to mark 250 years of independence, this museum feels like the nation's memory vault. Its more than a million artefacts include the original Star-Spangled Banner, Abraham Lincoln's top hat and the elegant gowns of First Ladies across generations. Beyond objects, the museum celebrates the stories and ideals that shaped America — freedom, innovation, resilience.

Finally, no visit to DC is complete without a stop at the **National Museum of Natural History**, a wonderland for the curious. Housing the world's largest natural history collection, it takes visitors from the age of dinosaurs to deep-sea marvels. Highlights include the glittering Hope Diamond — a 45.5-carat deep-blue gem originally mined in India — as well as ancient mummies, oceanic wonders, and the lively butterfly pavilion.

Washington DC's museums are more than repositories of art or artefacts — they're vibrant storytellers. Each one invites you to walk through time, cross cultures, and see the world anew.

DIFFERENT STROKES

His lens captured both anguish and rapture

Sebastião Salgado transitioned from being an economist to a legendary photographer gifted with a healer's hands and a seer's eye, writes Giridhar Khasnis in a tribute

When the Brazilian photojournalist and environmentalist Sebastião Salgado passed away at the age of 81 in Paris in May this year, there was a profound outpouring of grief. Salgado's death reportedly was caused by leukaemia, which was triggered by malaria that he contracted during a project in Indonesian New Guinea way back in 2010.

Sebastião Salgado.

"The world has lost a giant," said Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer David Carl Turnley. "His life's work and photographs will live forever." David's twin brother, Peter Turnley, also a renowned photographer, said: "Few people in my lifetime have touched the world so profoundly with their images as Sebastião!" Shahidul Alam, the brave Bangladeshi photographer who is constantly challenged physically, politically and creatively by an authoritarian regime, wrote a heartfelt poem: "*The world has lost a man of magic—/ A man with a healer's hands and a seer's eye ... / I won't say rest in peace,/ Because his soul was always at peace ...*"

German filmmaker Wim Wenders believed in Salgado's death, the world had 'not only lost a unique photographer and artist, but also an ambassador for responsibility and humanity and an avowed environmental activist.'

Born in 1944 in Aimorés, a small town in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, Salgado studied economics at São Paulo University and earned a Master's degree in 1968. Seen as a political radical by Brazil's military government, he was exiled in August 1969. He and his wife Lélia Wanick Salgado fled to France, where he continued his studies and earned a PhD in economics from the University of Paris in 1971. Thereafter, he dedicated himself to photography, initially taking freelance jobs with photo agencies Sygma and Gamma, to cover stories in Africa, Europe, and Latin America. In 1979, he joined the influential Magnum Photos, a turning point in his illustrious career. After a 15-year association with Magnum, he and his wife established their own agency, Amazona Images. In 1998, the couple co-founded Instituto Terra, a nonprofit environmental organisation dedicated to the sustainable development of the Valley of the River Doce in Brazil. The organisation went on to facilitate an ecological regeneration and reforestation programme covering 17,000 acres of Atlantic Forest in Minas Gerais.

A few of Salgado's iconic images. PIC COURTESY: DH ARCHIVES & WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Powerful storytelling

As a distinguished photographer, Salgado developed a unique and instantly recognisable style that focused on powerful, human-centred storytelling. He dedicated his life to black-and-white imagery and dramatic lighting. Instead of standalone pictures, Salgado preferred to do a series of photographs on specific topics and locations. Throughout his career, he travelled to all corners of the globe, covering 120 countries and capturing the stark realities of humanity as well as the breathtaking beauty of the natural world. His stunning monochrome images showcased the varying tones of human suffering, as well as the agony and ecstasy of life, and the resilience of many indigenous communities. He documented both the mysterious and the mundane, portrayed pristine environments as well as those in decline, with deep love, respect, and understanding. His photographs addressed hard-hitting social themes while maintaining a sense of poetry and rhythm, even in settings marked by pain and adversity.

Salgado's 1993 exhibition, In Human Effort, at the Tokyo National Museum of Modern Art, was a landmark retrospective. Since then, his pictures have been exhibited in numerous shows and multiple locations around the world. For his pathbreaking work, Salgado received numerous international prizes.

While receiving praise for his extensive photographic work, Salgado also faced criticism from some quarters. Several voices accused Salgado of objectifying, and in some instances, sexualising and eroticising Indigenous subjects. His frequent depiction of women and children in full or partial nakedness attracted significant criticism. American writer Susan Sontag was an especially strong critic.

Despite the criticism, Sebastião Salgado's legacy remains unparalleled. His work displayed an artistry that contemporary photographers would find difficult to replicate.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

Classifieds

More value, more impact

For your Classified Advertisements, Contact: 45557160/162/163/187/98451 14560 / 97318 10277 email: dhclassifieds@deccanherald.co.in

DMR PROPERTIES

DMR Hill View Farms

DMR

Farmland

LIVE WITH NATURE | YOUR OWN COTTAGE | WEEKEND GETAWAY

Near Nelamangala

Bangalore - Mangalore Highway Road

with Club House

30 mins Drive from Yeshwanthpur Railway Station

HIGHLIGHTS :
- Excellent Connectivity to Bangalore City
- Just 8 mins drive to Bangalore KIAL Airport Rd.
- Namma Metro just 15 mins away
- Close to National Highway
- Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwar Ayurveda hospital Near

AMENITIES :
- Entrance Arch • Surrounded by compound wall
- CCTV 24/7 • Parks with all round landscaping
- Cricket Stadium • Electricity • Security 24x7 • Temple
- Each Plot with independent Water • Walking Trail
- Street Lights all along • Kids Play Area • Jogging Park
- Club House & Swimming Pool • Wide Black Top Roads
- Drainage • Drip irrigation system for individual plots

READY FOR REGISTRATION

For Booking Contact:
9880981493, 9740246003

RERA No.PRM/KA/RERA/1270/302/PR/290125/007448

RAJESHWARI AASHIRVAD your dreams! our goal...

Develop | Build | Sale

BMRDA & RERA APPROVED
A-KHATA SITES

BIDADI MYSORE ROAD

OFFER PRICE ₹4699/- PER SQFT

AASHIRVAD APRAMEYA
PREMIUM RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT

Bangalore-Mysore Express Highway Attached

10 minutes drive from Challaghatta Metro Station

- Ready for Registration
- 100% Legal Documents
- Bank Loan Available
- Developed Layout
- Best Amenities

SPOT BOOKING OFFER Rs. 2 Lakh DISCOUNT

CALL FOR SITE VISIT:
6399889911
www.aashirvad.net

SCAN FOR LOCATION

SITE DIMENSIONS: 30X40, 30X50, 40X60, ODD DIMENSIONS

New Project Launching from Sapthagiri Promoters & Developers

Sapthagiri PROMOTERS & DEVELOPERS

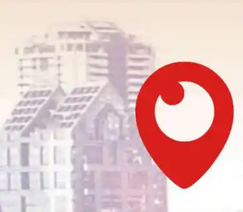
Launching 8th & 9th Nov.

Today Last Day

Sapthagiri Enclave

Launching OFFER
Registration FREE
& Rs.100/- per Sq.ft.
Discount on Spot Booking

Tumkur Road near Dabaspete City
Attached 300 feet STRR RING road



AMENITIES
- Round The Clock Security
- Wide White Topped Roads (CC Road)
- Perfectly Aligned Plots For Vasthu
- Rain Water Drains
- Avenue Plantation
- Drainage Facility
- Electricity Facility
- Street Lights
- Water Facility
- Sanitary Facility
- Plots With Clear Title
- Gated Community

BMRDA APPROVED

A KHATHA SITES

BANK LOAN AVAILABLE

9686 49 49 49

Call for Bookings and more details:
7026 11 88 99, 7026 00 44 99

Classifieds

More value, more impact

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Chitradurga

AGRICULTURAL LAND: 10 Acres of Sapota Garden Land, before HIRIYUR Near NH with old Farm House 3 Borewells with Drip connection Fenced Farmland: 9845094316

Dobaspet

MANAGED FARM Land- For SALE Whispering Hills, Dobaspet, Plot No. 17 Total Area: 6,578 Sqft Peaceful Environment Perfect for Weekend Home Contact: 6366514777/ 9448684033.

General

YELLOW ZONE PROPERTY FOR SALE IN HAROHALLI TOWN, 30 GUNTAS, 32000 SQ FT, 150 MTRS FROM HAROHALLI- KANAKPUR BYPASS, WITH BOREWELL AND COCONUT TREES: CONTACT VICTORY PROPERTIES. 7411692219/ 8618576685/ 9482303339, www.victoryproperties.in, info@victoryproperties.in

Jigani

FOR SALE JIGANI/ ANEKAL-HAROHALLI MAIN 80 FEET ROAD, 195 FEET ROAD FRONTAGE, 2 ACRES, 15 KMS FROM JIGANI/ ANEKAL & 15 KMS FROM HAROHALLI, EXCELLENT FOR INVESTMENT : CONTACT VICTORY PROPERTIES.7411692219/ 8618576685/ 9482303339. www.victoryproperties.in, info@victoryproperties.in

Sites

Anjanapura

ANJANAPURA 10TH Block BDA Property 40x60, Prime Location, West Facing Site 11,500/- Contact- 9845000299/ 9980808155

BDA RESIDENTIAL and Commercial Anjanapura BDA, Narayananagara, BCMC, Judicial, Vakil Garden, Kanakapura Road 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. 9916592400

ANJANAPURA COMMERCIAL Flat for Sale 50x80 North Facing, Genuine Buyers Call: 9880448478/ 9972338060.

ANJANAPURA BDA Site For Sale, 1ST Block 20x30, W/F Price 65 Lakhs Negotioble 9740150364/8884707773

Anekal

KHB SITE SALE at Surya Nagar 2nd Phase 30x40, 20x30, Near Anekal Road, Chandrapura 9066865343

Banashankari

BSK 6th Stage 4th 'T' Block, opp Park 40 feet Road, East Facing 5 min. walk from Silk Institute Metro Station 12500/- sft. slightly negotiable. **M : 9845286583**

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage 10th Block 40x60 West Facing. And 30x40 West Facing. More Details Call: 9148914809, 9993959099.

BDA RESIDENTIAL and Prime Commercial Banashankari 6th Stage, Banashankari 5th Stage, Uttarahalli, Rajarajeshwarinagara, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. 9916592400

BDA SITE for Sale at Banashankari 6th Stage 2nd Block 30x40 West Facing Near 80 Feet Road Contact: 8123715607

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage, 3rd Block 30x40, West Facing, 2nd Block 30x40, South Facing Contact :9844216344

BANASHANKARI 6TH Stage BDA Site for Sale 30x40, 40x60 4th & 11th Block. 6364643930/ 9972720488.

BDA 30X40 WF 40ft Road BSK 3rd Stage Girinagar Near Pushpanjali Park Good Location: 8880014616

Bannerghatta Road

BANNERAGATTA ROAD Akshaya Nagara 3562 SqFt West Facing A KATHA 11000/- Negotiable. Brokers Excuse 9449655947

Basaweshwaranagar

40×60 SOUTH Basveshwarnagar SMV Layout East Rajajinagar with Building Commercial/ Residential Site Immediate Sale: 8660075308.

Gnanabharathi

"30X40 BDA East_Face`Site for_sale`at Gnanabharathi Layout 3rd-Block just`10`minutes drive`to R.V.COLLEGE_METRO and Mysore Road. 9880031654"

Hebbal

HEBBAL 30X35 House Sale Ground 1 BHK Two Carparking 1st 2 BHK 2nd 2 BHK 9845623970/ 9739400838

Kanakapura Road

BCC LAYOUT 30X50,G+3 House 4.60Cr,50x60, Price 14000/-BSK 6th Stage,3rd Block 40x60, Price 14000/-9880837475

Jayanagar

JAYANAGAR, RR-NAGAR Commercial & Residential Property Sal 40x60, 45x90 North East West South: 9845075792/ 9880600899

PRIME COMMERCIAL Buildings & Sites- High Rental Returns Jayanagar, JP Nagar, HSR, Koramangala, Yelahanka, RMV, Banashankari, RR Nagar, Kanakapura Road & Central Bangalore. 9916592400

J P Nagar

"J.P.NAGAR, SRINIDHI_LAYOUT 30x51 Residential Site, East Facing, BBMP A_Katha, Full White. Owner: 9845088449/ 9845249799"

JP.NAGAR 3RD 1200sft 4.2Cr_and 4.1cr 2nd 2700sft 10.26cr, 2400sft 10cr`&`1200sft 3.4cr. Commercial 4050sft 17.8cr_call 9008481314

Kempegowda Layout

NADAPRABHU KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT BDA SITES SELLING/ BUYING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80. Genuine Buyers Call: 9632146784, 9731162167.

SITE FOR SALE
40x60
East Facing
BDA 40 Feet Road
Very Good Location
Rs 9250/- Negotiable
Nada Prabhu Kempe Gowda Layout
K Sector 1st Block
Contact: 9916826976

Nagarabhavi

NAGARBHAVI 40X61 Site for sale South facing NGEF Layout Nagarbhavi (BDA Appvd) Call 8660065216

Rajajinagar

SITE FOR Sale Commercial Property Rajajinagar 2nd block 25x45, North Broker Excuse Contact: 7899570235/ 8197768459

Jigani

KHB Sites
Surya City
Near Jigani
STRRA & BMRDA APPROVED PLOTS
Near Bannerghatta Road Akhata & Ekhata Plots Ready for Registration SBI & Nationalised Bank Loan (Land Owner Share) **Call : 74115 54412**

Kempegowda Layout

"30X50 NF RESIDENTIAL BBMP VINAYAKA LAYOUT, 40x60 SF 5TH_BLOCK_BDA VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT SITES SALE. 9845143579"

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 9035470616

"40X60 WEST_FACING BDA site for sale`at Vishveshwaraiah 1st_Block just_10_minutes drive to METRO. 9880031654"

"VISHVESWARAIAH 6TH_BLOCK near_BDA_Complex (Oxford School) 40x60_North 40'ft_Road, 100%_Vasthu. 9448432633"

40X60 6TH Block Vishweshwaraiah Layout North Facing Price 13500/- Good Location Geniune Buyer's Call: 9980409820

BDA SITE for Sale 30x40, South face, Vishweshwaraiah layout 4th Block near Ring Road. Price 15.000/- sqft. Contact Owner: 9731076255

BDA SITE SALE VISHWESHWARAIAH LAYOUT 1ST BLOCK 30X40 WEST 12500 NEGOTIABLE, 40X60 WEST 11500 NEGOTIABLE. CONTACT: 8892901567

AVAILABLE BDA Site Vishweshwaraih Layout 6th Block 20×30 SF Near Oxford College Good Location: 9743381719

30X40 VISHVESHWARAIAH Layout BDA Near Bus Stand Rs. 8750 & 60X35 Site Sale North West Corner 80Ft Road 6th Block Commercial Opposite BDA Complex: 8310003509

***BUYING/SELLING* 20X30** 30x40,40x60,50X80 BDA SITES VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT. Contact:SREENIDHI PROPERTY JUNCTION. 9742681666

Vidyaranyapura

INDEPENDENT 60'X40' BEL 2 Block Prime Location (Ready to move 4 BHK) 16000/- S/F: 9844264852

Mandya

CHIKKA MANDYA KHB East Facing 49x68 2000/-per-sft, West Facing 30x40 3000/-per-sft. ABHILASHA CONSULTANT. 9480565758

Mysore

KIADB AUCTION SITE FOR SALE, 17539 SQFT E/Face RING ROAD, OPPOSITE SHESHADRIPURAM COLLEGE, HEBBAL, MYSORE. CALL: 9845981490

Tumkur

TUDA 70X103 WF SITE FOR SALE Rs.4600 SQFT. NEAR SAPTHAGIRI CIRCLE, TUMAKURU. CALL: 9845193978/ 9964598774.

R T Nagar

R.T.NAGAR HMT LAYOUT 40X60 Site Close to CBI MAIN ROAD Excellent Location Call: 9341260828

RT.NAGAR MAIN Road 5400 sft. Commercial Property for Sale. East Face, Brokers Excuse. Call: 9845345964.

DH Classifieds More value, more impact ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

REAL ESTATE

BOOK YOUR REAL ESTATE ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON SATURDAY + SUNDAY

@ 2481/-* FOR 15 WORDS

www.dhclassifieds.com

BOOK NOW

Book your ad with us now! For more details contact:

+91 9845114560| +91 9886213331

+91 9731810277 | +91 9900428036 | 080-45557163/164

*Conditions apply

WEEKEND CORNER Classifieds

WANTED COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT

1. MINIMUM BUA 15,000 SQFT AND ABOVE
2. NO PART RENTAL & BESCOM, BWSSB IS MUST
3. ONLY UNDER BBMP LIMITS ON MAIN ROADS
4. LONG TERM AGREEMENT
5. LIFT IS MUST

CONTACT: +91 8762493355

WANTED COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR PURCHASE

WE ARE LOOKING TO PURCHASE COMMERCIAL BUILDING
BUYER : COMPANY
TIME PERIOD : 1 MONTH ,
ONLY HIGH RENTAL YIELD

CONTACT: +91 8050064066

AVAILABLE FOR RENT

3,000 sq.ft. Available for rent. Suitable for Show Room / Bank Branch on R.V.Road, Opp.to R.V.Public School, Lalbagh West Gate, B'lore. Contact Owner: 98450 48332

VIDYA NIKETAN SCHOOL

30, Kempapura, Hebbal, Bangalore-560 024

Application forms to the ISC program at Vidya Niketan School for the Academic Year June 2026 will be available online on our school website

www.vidyaniketanhebbal.org from Monday, 10 November 2025.

Courses offered:

Science, Commerce and Humanities.

After-School Competitive Exam Coaching
• JEE coaching by UR Academy
• CLAT Coaching by LAW PREP Tutorials

2 BHK FLAT FOR SALE AT CHOLANAYAKANAHALLI, HEBBAL, RT Nagar Post & BDA SITE FOR SALE 30x64 AT HMT LAYOUT, RT NAGAR, B'lore- 560032 CALL OWNER: 9379999899

Multiple Locations

SELLING/ BUYING HOUSES, SITES:30x40_40x60 FLATS, COMMERCIAL, Jayanagar, JP.Nagar BASAVANAGUDI Kanakapura Road, BANASHANKARI, BTM_HSR. CALL_7760019494

Flat

Devanahalli

2 BHK FOR SALE 999 Sq.ft. 14th floor PRESTIGE apartment Location: Bangaluru Ph- 9591330517 7899401401

Jayanagar

JAYANAGAR, BASAVANGUDI, Banashankari, Banneraghtta Road 3, 4 & 5 BHK Flats for Sale: 9845075792/ 9880600899

Kanakapura Road

3BHK APARTMENT for`Sale 40x60, 2400.Sqft. Individual Floor near_Vajarahalli and Raghuvanahalli Metro_Station 1`KM. Call_9740148870 9341050991.

Rajarajeshwari Nagar

3BHK FLAT NE Corner, East Furnished, 2 Carpark, 2nd Floor, Behind Nimishamba, Ideal Homes. 9902288900.

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

House

Begur

5-BHK HOUSE, 40x60 Noble Residency, Near Nandi Woods Apartment, Yelanahalli, Begur Hobli, 3.5 Cr, 9845206422

Hebbal

AMRUTHNAGAR- 40*30 North West corner new house fully furnished, North door. 3 BHK. Home theatre, gym. Ground floor single BHK 3 car park. Price 4.25 cr. 9845072651

Jakkur

MCECHS Layout Sale Bldg Plot 30X50, 3BHKx3, 1BHK 2Nos. Office 3 Car Parking Lift Getting 1 Lakh Rent, Sale 3.75Cr: **Contact: 9449970278**

Mallathalli

***28X40 N/W** Corner*40 feet-road Rental Income 2years old BUILDING 2.95cr final. Mallathahalli ITI LAYOUT. 9353199141

Thyagaraja Nagar

PROPERTY SALE. 48x28' 4 units G + 1 CarParking. Rs. 45000/- Rental income. 24,000 sqft. Negotiable. No Brokers. 9945348535.

Commerical

Anjanapura

COMMERCIAL SITE FOR SALE Site no. 685 Anjanapura 8th block, North facing 50*80. Call: 6362874644.

Jayanagar

JAYANAGAR 4TH T Block, Commercial Site 45x90, East, 80ft. Road, 48,000/- Sft. Suraj Realtors- 9845232711

J P Nagar

COMMERCIAL BDA-SITE-SALE JPNagar 8th Phase 2nd,Block, 40x60,North Facing,16500/- Anjanapura 8th,Block 50x80,North Facing 16000/- 9845600007

Sahakarnagar

SALE 1200 sqft. Semi commercial 40x30 W/F 2nd site to 60 ft road behind Manasa Hospital, Virupakshapura, Bangalore. 8197636042

Seshadripuram

COMMERCIAL SPACE- For SALE Embassy Center, No. 213, 2nd Floor, Kumara Park East, Bengaluru- 560001 Area: 515 Sqft Prime Location Ideal for Office Contact: 6366514777/ 9448684033

Whitefield

PRIME COMMERCIAL Plot for Sale- HAL-Whitefield Main Road Vacant commercial plot measuring 8,769 sqft, Strategic Location: High- footfall corridor, close to tech parks, retail hubs, and premium residential zones. Ideal for: Showrooms, office complexes, nursing home, boutique hotels, flagship retail. Clear Title & Ready for Development. Excellent Road Frontage & Access. A rare opportunity to own a landmark site in one of Bengaluru's fastest- growing commercial belts. Contact Kartik: +91 9900020184

Commercial Land

General

E KHATA east-facing 10.75 Gunta land for outright sale in Whitefield. NO JD. Rs.9000/SFT Cont: 9900181309

Industrial & Factory

Multiple Locations

WANT TO purchase running and sick Industry properties from 10000sft to 2 acres in Bangalore city limits/ Bangalore Rural, KIADB Industrial areas. Contact Verna Developers, Barton Centre, MG Road. 9916310226.

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology- 9880916988

REAL ESTATE BUYING

House

Basavanagudi

WANTED IN BANGALORE South OLD 3/4 BHK 2000Sqft Apartment or HOUSE Near METRO Maximum 3 Crores: 9942081702

Sites

Anjanapura

BDA-SITES WANTED @ Banashankari 6th Stage, Visveshwaraiah Layout, Anjanapura, Kempegowda Layout 30x40,40x60, 50x80 Rajesh: 9945610779

DH Classifieds More value, more impact ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

RECRUITMENT

BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON WEDNESDAY + SUNDAY

@ 825/-* PER SQCM

SINGLE / DOUBLE / MULTIPLE COLUMN

www.dhclassifieds.com

BOOK NOW

For more details contact:

+91 9845114560
+91 9900428036
+91 9731810277
+91 9886213331
080- 45557163/164

* Conditions apply

More value, more impact

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Multiple Locations

ADELIE INTERNATIONAL PRESCHOOL is expanding across Bangalore! We are looking for bungalows independent houses villas or commercial buildings with built-up area of 2500 sft to 10000 sft, ideally suited for preschool setup– preferably in good vicinity on main road with garden space and open area. Preferred Locations: RR Nagar Yelahanka Bannerghatta Road Kanakapura Road North Bangalore HBR layout HSR Layout Sarjapura Indiranagar Koramangala. Additionally, Adelie International Preschool is open to taking over existing preschools. Property owners interested in offering their premises on long lease or institutions looking for takeover opportunity may please contact: info@eduweft.com Sumanth Narayan: 9606353036

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Accommodation Available

Commercial

COMMERCIAL OFFICE Space 4000 sqft. for Rent available 600 yards from Taj Residency opposite Raddison Hotel, Kensington Road suitable for Advertising Office/ Courier/ Finance Companies etc. with Lift and Parking space. Contact Mob: 9845564500, 9880543500.

RENT ON 60ft road commercial building, parking, near KLE college. Rajajinagar Ground Floor: 2,700 sqft. First Floor: 3,000 sqft. Third Floor: 2,500 sqft. Ideal for offices, showrooms. 9036765555

OFFICE SPACE of 1200sqft is available for rent with ample parking slots for 2 wheelers and cars. 24hr security. Space is ready to move in. Located on First floor, well lit, bright and ventilated with 3 toilets. The place is closer to Metro station and Jayanagar BDA complex. Rent is 60k excluding maintenance. Contact no : 9886346595.

Flats

"FOR LEASE/RENT Jaynagar`Luxury Brand`New 3BHK_Flat`with servant`quarter with`covered Car-park, 100%_Vastu Rent:_Rs.1.Lakh Lease:`Rs.1.Crore "Sri.Ganesh Estate" 9845286505"

READY-TO-OCCUPY INDUSTRIAL SHED FOR RENT : 55,000 sq.ft., brand new construction, suitable for manufacturing / logistics / warehouse use at Malur, 4th Phase, KIADB Industrial Area, Kolar Distt. Contact - 99007 45043

Industrial And Factory

WAREHOUSE FOR Rent, Located in the Prime Location. Building and Vacant Land, 27495 sqft #113/2, Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-44 Contact: M/s ISICOS LTD. Mobile: 7022596111

House

FOR RENT
INDEPENDENT 3BHK DUPLEX HOUSE IN KASTURI NAGAR
North Facing, AC, Modern Amenities, Car Parking. Ideal for Family Living. No. 216, 1 'C' Cross, Near Corner House, East of NGEF Layout, Kasturi Nagar
Ph: 9164800743

1 RK RENT 400 sqft. plus Terrace, suitable OFFICE/RESIDENCE near Smart Bazaar, MALLESHWARAM. 7892081511

BUSINESS

Business to Business

Business

FOR BRANDING, DIGITAL, SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING, BUS BACK, AUTO BACK, HOARDINGS, NO PARKING BOARDS, FLIERS, FOUR, THREE WHEELER BRANDING FOR CORPORATES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BOUTIQUES, JEWELLERY AND ALL BUSINESS NEEDS. CONTACT VENUSCAST TECHNOLOGIES PVT LTD. UAE & INDIA. www.Venuscast.com. Call : 9482303339/ 8722123445/ 9538123445.

'GOOD OPPORTUNITY: invest small sum in real estates, Gold. get good Monthly, weekly returns in big. Ct. 9019388175.'

Finance

LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY / BUSINESS / PROJECTS CONTACT : +91 8754809650

DH Deccan Herald | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
Classifieds
More value, more impact
NAME CHANGE
@50/-*
PER WORDS
*Conditions apply
Book your Name change Ad in DH All Karnataka + Prajavani Bengaluru City All Days
www.dhclassifieds.com BOOK NOW
For more details contact:
+91 7795158424 | +91 9900428036
+91 9731810277 | +91 9845114560
080- 45557163 / 164

Business Offers

Finance

URGENT LOAN AVAIL @ 3.5% PER ANNUM PERSONAL BUSINESS EDUCATION TAKE OVER ALL TYPES LOAN SHIVGANGA FINANCE. CALL/ WHATSAPP : 8826494700

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Engg/ Production Technical

WANTED TOOL Room in charge at Bommasandra Bangalore- Good knowledge of independently designing. Precision Press Tools for Presses upto 300 tonnes & Fine blank press tools.. Diploma from NTTF/GTTC. Good knowledge in TOOL manufacturing systems/ production systems /Measuring instruments /CAD Drawings /customer interaction... We are an ISO COMPANY/ Tier 1 supplier to major OE.. Mail CV to: rasik_ranjan@hotmail.com hppccounts@gmail.com www.hppindia.com

LEADING CONSTRUCTION Co. Wants Jr & Sr Civil Engineers 2 to 5 year experienced to work at Yelahanka/ Hoskote. B.Com Graduates freshers and 2 yr experienced for Domlur. Contact: 080-42212228/ 9845047577. Email: jayemengineering@gmail.com

General

WANTED AUTOCAD DESIGNER- (Coreldraw, Solid Works)- Female. Experience 2 years. Industry in Peenya. Immediate Appointment. 9972410541, 9845915484 infusilindia@infusil.in

"WANTED STENO, CLERK for Advocate Office at J.P.Nagar 1st phase Bangalore. Call: 9845042360/ 9448094260"

Wanted

WANTED-DR ACADEMY, KG Halli, Bangalore, needs one RECEPTIONIST (any degree) and two MARKETING EXECUTIVES (MBA) with excellent communication and organizational skills, 2-3 years of relevant experience, and age under 35. Contact 8884369994 or send CV to principal@dracademy.co.in by...

Marketing & Sales

WANTED MANAGERS, Sales Executives, Telecallers to work different parts of Bangalore earn 20,000-30,000: 8867627879

Teachers/ Professors

WANTED MALE candidates to teach English & Social Science for VIII and IX Std- 6 pm to 9 pm, Contact in person 10 am -6 pm- The Secretary, Deccan Educational Society®, Near Sampige Theater, Malleswaram, Mob: 9353382686

HINDI ENGLISH Maths LADY TEACHERS Primary/ Nursery. Bhoruka English School, Next to BIEC, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru. WhatsApp resume/ call: 9342816044

TEACHER FOR Science Required For Class 6 to 10 SSLC State Board Contact 9901501185.

WANTED QUALIFIED Female Graduates with B.Ed/ D.Ed and TEACHING experience to handle ALL SUBJECTS for Pre-Primary, Primary and High School classes. Also required: Experienced Lady RECEPTIONIST. Salary: Negotiable. Apply / Contact in person immediately PRINCIPAL HOLY CHILD CONVENT 1133/44, 9th Cross, Ashoknagar, Near Vidyapeeta Circle, Bangalore- 560050 Ph: 26608485/ 74833-97848 Email: hcchs1371@yahoo.com

WANTED ENGLISH MEDIUM LADY TRAINED/ UNTRAINED Computer Science Graduates to teach Primary classes. Salary with PF and ESI facilities, Contact in person 10 am- 3 pm–The Secretary, Deccan Educational Society®, Near Sampige Theater, Malleswaram, Mob: 9353382686

EDUCATIONAL

Tuitions

WANTED PARTIES to organize and conduct tutorials at Rajajinagar and Madavara Complex. Contact personally with resume, original documents. Nadgir Institute Near Modi Hospital Rajajinagar Bangalore – 560010. Ph: 23387333, 8867065525,9731721446

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Nitesh B** S/o Balaji Singh R, residing at No. 49, Ramaiah Street, Vannarpet, Viveknagar, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to **YUVARAJ SINGH B** vide affidavit dated 17.10.2025 before notary Prasad Shetty K.B, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called **YUVARAJ SINGH B** only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANURADHA** residing at No. 13/B, 2nd Cross, Manjunath Layout, Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to **RADHA RANI** vide affidavit dated 27.10.2025 before notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

I, GEETHA Dinesh, D/o, P. Krishnappa, #131, 1st Main. Swathantranagar, Bangalore 49, have changed my name to Geetha Krishnappa, vide affidavit number IN-KA89041558835620X, Dt. - 07/11/2025

MATRIMONIAL

Brides Wanted

Hindu

BRIDE REQUIRED
DOCTOR MBBS MD (Pulmonologist) 38 Years, 5.10. fair good looking. Bangalore. Looking for Doctor Bride Age 26 to 35 Fair, Good looking, Height 5.3 to 5.8 Unmarried. Belonging to Somavansh sahasrarjun khsatriya (SSK- Savji community only).
Call: 63639 25146

Muslim

Wanted Bride
Muslim boy 1995/ 5'10 / MS in engineering / Working in USA / is looking for a suitable match
(080-69141323)

Wanted Bride
Muslim Boy MBBS / MS / Doctor/ 1993 born/ Bangalore resident / is looking for a Doctor Match
(080-69141323)

Wanted Bride
Muslim Boy 1998 / 5'10/ M.Tech/ Working in Bangalore as an Software Engineer / 1 Cr annual Income / Affluent family is seeking for a educated girl
(080-69103145)

Wanted Bride
Muslim boy divorce 1990/ MBBS/MD/ is looking for a suitable match
(080-69103145)

Telugu

Wanted Bride
Telugu boy 1994 born / MBBS/ MS/ Doctor / 5'10/ is looking for a suitable match
(080-69074944)

Wanted Bride
Telugu Boy 1990 Born / Second Marriage / Resident of Hyderabad / MBBS / MS Doctor affluent family is looking for a match
(080-69103107)

Wanted Bride
Telugu Boy 1998 born / Only Son / Residing in Bangalore / Businessman / Networth 200 Cr/ is looking for a match (Caste No Bar)
(080-69074944)

Grooms Wanted

Kannada

Wanted Groom
South Indian girl, 2000 born, 5'4", from a very reputed and high-class business family. Seeking alliance from a well-established business-class family anywhere in India. Caste no bar.
(9940015735)

Muslim

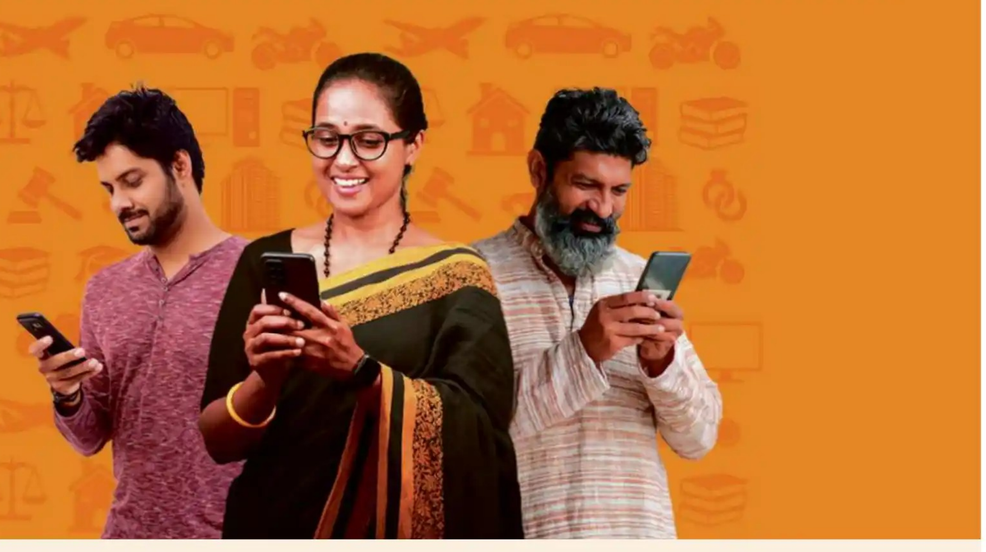
Wanted Groom
Muslim 2003 born / very fair and beautiful girl from bangalore is looking for a suitable match from a good family
(080-69141356)

Telugu

Wanted Groom
Telugu beautiful girl from a Rich family 2001 born / 5'Networth 1000 Cr resident in Hyderabad is looking for suitable match (CNB)
(080-69103107)

EDUCHOICE Pathway to Success
CAREERS In DESIGN 2025
Higher Education Outreach Event @ Bengaluru
15 NOV 2025 SATURDAY
PANEL OF EXPERTS FROM MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES
PRODUCT DESIGN, COMMUNICATION DESIGN, ARCHITECTURE , AI IN DESIGN, SPACE TECH DESIGN, ROBOTIC DESIGN, GAME DESIGN, INTERIOR DESIGN, FASHION & JEWELLERY DESIGN, LEATHER DESIGN, INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, AUTOMOBILE DESIGN, AGRO TECH, VLSI & EMBEDDED DESIGN, 3D DESIGN AND MANY MORE ...
TOP DESIGN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES & INDUSTRY MEET
@ IISC CAMPUS, JN TATA AUDITORIUM, BENGALURU-560012
TIMINGS: 9 A.M TO 5 P.M
DESIGN UNIVERSITY PARTNERS
Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design & Technology | Manipal Academy of Higher Education | NITTE (Deemed to be University) | PES University | Garden City University | REVA University | CMR University | Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences | Presidency University | Dayananda Sagar University | MIT Institute of Design | MIT-ADT University | RV University | Indian Institute of Fashion Technology | Alliance University
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.EDUCHOICE.ORG
EDUCHOICE9@GMAIL.COM
+91 99729 28185 / +91 91484 52185
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM – @EDUCHOICEORG
SCAN TO REGISTER
FREE ENTRY

DH Deccan Herald | ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
https://dhclassifieds.com
Book your Ad in 4 Easy Steps --Select Category-- Book ad
1 Select Category 2 Publication & Date 3 Compose Your Ad 4 Payment



Buy or Sell
anytime, anywhere in just 4 clicks.
Buy, sell, rent, or recruit with ease! Need to find a service, buy products, sell your property, or connect with the right candidate?
Find buyers, services, or talent by placing your classified ads in Karnataka's most trusted newspapers Deccan Herald & Prajavani —your one-stop platform to connect with the right audience across the state.
- Instant ad booking & easy browsing
- Buy & Sell from anywhere, at any time
- Simple, secure, and hassle-free process
- Reach the right audience across Karnataka
Book Now.
Scan the QR code & grab the best deal today!

Classifieds

More value, more impact

AISHWARYA'S

Karnataka's
TASTIEST TEA

AISHWARYA TEA INDUSTRIES
since 1996

PURE & NATURAL

Pride of KARNATAKA

A Cup of **TEA**
at Sunrise,
a **new Delight**
for the Soul.

MONEY GUARANTEE BACK

SHALIMAR GOLD TEA

Kt Special Tea

Unique Taste * Best Price * High Quality

www.aishwaryateaindustries.com aishwaryatea@gmail.com

Available in amazon

TRADE ENQUIRIES

Bangalore
Sales Head
+91 9980 157884

Rest of Karnataka
Satish RSM
+91 97313 03541

A secure investment for your future, a home for your family.

A new chapter begins here

Residential plots near **KAGGALIPURA**

Price Just ₹10.2 LAKHS Onwards

Balance can be Paid through 3 installments

Away from the noise of the city,
yet well connected to key locations, a safe and sustainable living space for your family."

Why invest here?

- High value appreciation in the future
- Clear titles and immediate possession
- Profitable long-term investment
- A premium residential space that enhances your lifestyle

- Advanced infrastructure
- spacious, well-planned plots.
- Permanent water and electricity facilities,
- well-laid network of roads a proper drainage system.

Fully approved plots, open for booking.

Visit today : the price may rise tomorrow!

ALL BASIC AMINITIES PROVIDED

89700 56056